MARVEL MASTERWORKS
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
VOLUME 18

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 266-279
BILL MANTLO & SAL BUSCEMA

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

VOLUME 18

COLLECTING

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 266-279

BILL MANTLO • SAL BUSCEMA

Collection Editor
Cory Sedlmeier

Book Design
Nickel DesignWorks

VP Production & Special Projects
Jeff Youngquist

SVP Print, Sales & Marketing
David Gabriel

Sr. Manager, Digital
Tim Smith 3

Digital Production
Meghan O'Leary & Rachel Young

Editor in Chief
C.B. Cebulski

© 2024 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
CREDITS

THE INCREDIBLE HULK
Nos. 266-279

Writer: Bill Mantlo (Nos. 266-279)

Pencilers/Layouts: Sal Buscema (Nos. 266-278)
Mark Gruenwald (No. 279)

Inkers/Finishers: Sal Buscema (Nos. 266-273)
Joe Sinnott (Nos. 274-278)
Greg LaRocque (No. 279)

Letterers: Jim Novak (Nos. 266, 267, 270-278)
Shelly Leferman (No. 268)
Rick Parker (No. 269)
Janice Chiang (No. 279)

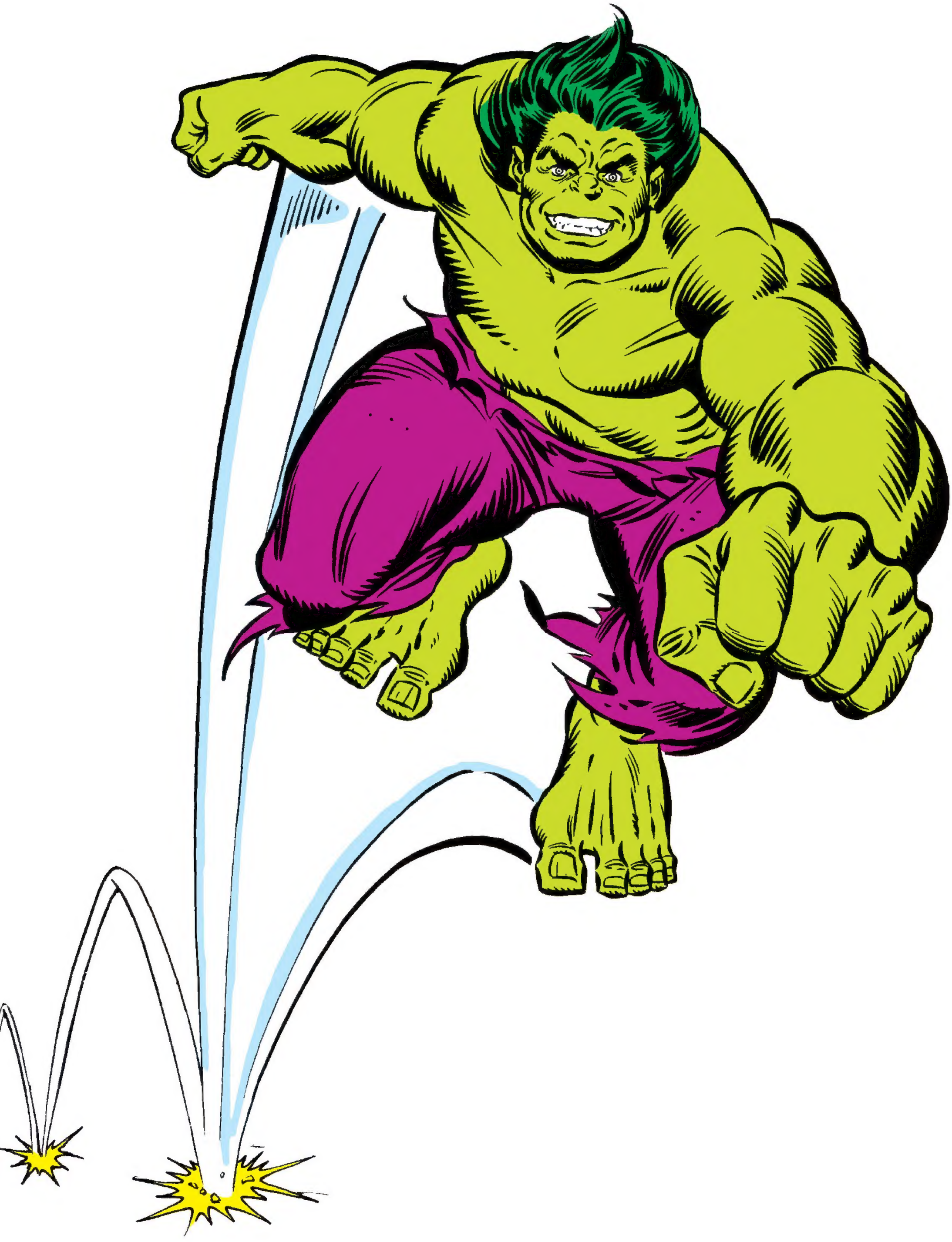
Colorist: Bob Sharen (Nos. 266-279)

Editor: Al Milgrom (Nos. 266-279)

Color & Art Reconstruction: Jimmy Porter (Nos. 266-270, 272-277, 279)
Michael Kelleher & Kellustration (Nos. 271, 278)

Special Thanks: Ralph Macchio

HULK CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY



MARVEL MASTERWORKS

CONTENTS

Introduction by Al Ewing. . . . . *vi*

The Incredible Hulk #266, December 1981

"Devolution!" 1

The Incredible Hulk #267, January 1982

"What a Day for a Daydream!" 22

The Incredible Hulk #268, February 1982

"And They Called the Wind Pariah!" 44

The Incredible Hulk #269, March 1982

"Enter: The Hulk-Hunters!" 66

The Incredible Hulk #270, April 1982

"The Goliath, the Gargoyle and the Galaxy Master!" 89

The Incredible Hulk #271, May 1982

"Now Somewhere in the Black Holes of Sirius Major There Lives a Young Boy Name of...Rocket Raccoon!" 112

The Incredible Hulk #272, June 1982

"Weirdsong of the Wen-di-go!" 135

The Incredible Hulk #273, July 1982

"Once a Hulk, Always a Hulk!" 158

The Incredible Hulk #274, August 1982

"Home the Hard Way!" 181

The Incredible Hulk #275, September 1982

"When Somebody's That Big, You Gotta Call Him...Megalith!" 204

The Incredible Hulk #276, October 1982

"The Return of the U-Foes!" 227

The Incredible Hulk #277, November 1982

"What Friends Are For!" 250

The Incredible Hulk #278, December 1982

"Amnesty!" 274

The Incredible Hulk #279, January 1983

"Acceptance" 298

INTRODUCTION
BY AL EWING

You hold in your hands the final story of the Incredible Hulk.

You heard me. Though this is only Act II of the Bill Mantlo/Sal Buscema run on the book, the centerpiece of it—the twentieth anniversary issue—is the very last hurrah for the Hulk in his most well-known and well-worn form: the childlike Hyde to Banner's Jekyll, one half of a system of two.

After this—and spoilers are forthcoming in this intro—the green goliath will never quite be the same again, as from Mantlo's epic run we go to John Byrne, to Al Milgrom, and finally to Peter David. And none of them are quite willing to reconstruct the character as he was and return to that status quo, despite Mantlo leaving a door open for it at the very end of his tale.

The "Classic Hulk" does return eventually, but by that time the context around him has irrevocably altered—he will never again be *the* Hulk, only *a* Hulk. So with this book, the longest stable period of the Hulk is over and done—from here on, as it was at Hulk's very beginning, the only true constant is change.

We can't say we don't see it coming. As we open, Bruce Banner is attempting to devolve himself out of his own narrative by returning to first principles and the prehistory of the character—the bunker from the original six issues, Betty, Rick, the old toe-operated Gamma Projector. Right from the start, there's the dark implication that Bruce has become suicidal—that if he can't end the Hulk, he'll end himself and take the Hulk with him. (I'll admit that I've only had time to re-read the issues in this volume, so I can't quite remember if this is an ongoing subplot or a fresh one, but it does feel very Mantloesque.) One way or another, Bruce is driven to end things—and hey! Here's the High Evolutionary, driving everything around him back to its earliest form because if he can't exist as his ideal self, he doesn't want to exist at all. There's a message in this dark mirror for Bruce, but he naturally doesn't see it.

Bruce is bonked on the head with some more foreshadowing the very next issue, as Glorian, the Shaper of Worlds' apprentice, makes everyone's dreams come true, including the Hulk's… and the Hulk's dream turns out to be an idealized version of Bruce's life—the Hulk with Bruce's personality, if you will. Hulk's refusal to accept the dream is what ends it—and the other dreamers show that getting your dream briefly only means that when reality crashes back in on you, the fall from grace comes even harder. Once again, there's a warning in the mirror approaching fast, but Bruce can't see it and the Hulk won't.

Oh, and Rick tries to sic the Hulk on Glorian's victims. Rick is not reacting to the coming end of the story well—he's a very mixed-up kid, as #268's brief origin clues us in on, showing how his jaunt onto the testing grounds way back in 1962's *Hulk* #1 was the culmination of a lifelong rebellious, anti-authoritarian and occasionally self-destructive streak that mirrors the Hulk and Bruce. No wonder he's the devil on Bruce/Hulk's shoulder in these issues, wanting to keep the Hulk action going at all costs. Obviously, he's expressing that desire in an increasingly unhealthy way—but nobody in a *Hulk* book ever deals with anything in a healthy way, least of all Bruce, who's flip-flopping between bringing out the Hulk at every opportunity and screaming at the monster to die, only to change his mind again just panels later. If anything, Rick's troubled childhood makes him a perfect candidate for Hulkdom…of which more later. Betty, meanwhile, is the devil on the opposite shoulder, encouraging Bruce to destroy the monster once and for all so she can have her ideal happy ending. Everyone has their own wants and needs as the narrative wraps up.

But what does the audience want? We're part of the story too, co-writing it via our own interpretations of the text. (And if this introduction differs from your interpretation, dear reader, please ignore it.)

So in comes Bereet, a character from *The Rampaging Hulk* magazine, brought into the "real" continuity with issue #269 to play the part of both author and fan. Specifically, a Marvel author—*"what a marvelous denunciation of society!"*—and a Hulk author at that, both in-world and in metaphor. She tells her fellow Krylorians that their military should be smashed by a green monster, and they love her for it. She herself would rather create smaller, more intimate works—in the form of her legion of mechanical sidekicks and helpers—but the public wants the Hulk, and there's nothing she can do about it, even if the format's grown stale and bland. Bereet even acknowledges that more Hulk stories are no bad thing—that the Hulk has incredible power as a symbol of anarchy and rebellion, a Lord of Misrule smashing societal certainties. The solution she finds for her artistic/commercial dilemma is to look more closely at the Hulk, to enter deeper into his world—and there, to find a Hulk story that's never been told before. *"A true techno-artist never repeats herself."*

On the eve of the end of the Hulk That Was—with Mantlo readying himself to make vast and sweeping changes to the format and then to unveil the troubled life of Bruce Banner at a level never before explored—it's hard not to see this as an authorial statement. So Bereet enters the narrative to observe from within, and by observing, changes it completely.

Things on Earth are coming to a head. Betty wants the Hulk destroyed, Rick wants the Hulk to continue. The reader, naturally, is on Rick's side…but his foreboding gaze at the Gamma Projector is, if anything, a sign of increasing danger for the Hulk we know. Now there's an obvious path where Bruce or some other force could kill off the Hulk and the book could still continue with an All-New, All-Different Hulk, while Bruce heads up a new Hulkbusters. Or maybe we'll even get a Red Hulk in a new *Hulk* #1. Who's to say such unlikely events could never happen?

So when a gallery of old Hulk and Thing foes come from space to provoke the green goliath into a misunderstanding, it feels like the very concept of Hulk stories as they have been up until now challenging our protagonist to a final fight to the death—Hulk's even tempted into the combat by the implication that Galaxy Master, his most cosmically powerful foe, might be mightier than he is. Who's stronger—the Hulk, or his own continuity? And it wouldn't be a last hurrah if Hulk didn't match up against an enemy who's earned the right to kill him, so the Abomination acts as the Silver Surfer to Galaxy Master's Galactus, with both of them hyped up as being vastly more powerful than they ever were before.

And all the time, Rick is getting ready to take Bruce's place as New Hulk, right down to the gamma experiment gone awry. Betty stops the Gamma Projector before it kills Rick, but Rick's left green, glowing and dying on the floor. Any Hulk reader worth their salt knows exactly what's coming—you don't change immediately when the gamma hits you, you wait patiently for the moment of maximum drama. Rick's got to be dying until the perfect moment to Nu-Hulk out—and surely that moment comes on the final page of the Original Hulk? You'd think so—the Hulk beats Abomination once and for all, takes the ultimate blast of gamma radiation (the same stuff Bruce has been attempting to cure himself with since this volume started, at a greater concentration than ever before) and leaps into the literal jaws of death to save the universe.

All this in the issue before the 20th anniversary. Put like that, the intention feels pretty clear…but there are a couple of minor things in the way of that perfect finale. The first is that Rick's already

given the game away before he even started, by musing for a couple of panels about what a force for good a Hulk with Bruce Banner's brain would be. (Also bringing up the Leader as an example of gamma-powered smarts. Messages in mirrors, etc.)

But the second thing is Bereet, our author/reader surrogate, who walks into Rick's plotline and immediately stops the whole thing dead in its tracks. Because at this point, the story could only pretend to end—killing Bruce off and making Rick the Hulk, having a different face go through the same motions, won't change the essential nature of Hulk stories. And Bereet wants to tell a different type of Hulk story—but also, she wants to tell her own story, with her own characters.

The 20th anniversary issue, #271, is indeed the final issue of Hulk as we've come to know him. But he doesn't go out on his own terms, in a battle for the ages—instead, he suffers something close to what pop-culture academic and fellow comic writer Elizabeth Sandifer would call a narrative collapse, as his entire comic is taken over by Bereet and the forces she represents. As she uses one of her own creations to put Rick's story on pause, Mantlo applies one of his to oust Hulk from his own celebration. On the cover, Hulk looks stricken, helpless, forced to hold up a window into a universe not his own. From it comes a new avatar of the anti-narrative—a new Lord of Misrule birthed to smash what even the Hulk cannot.

Enter Rocket Raccoon.

Understand: this is not the star of the cineplex, the central hub of comic-book moviedom's unlikeliest success story, the pickle floating in the secret sauce of a gazillion-dollar CGI empire, the glue that holds the glue that holds the Marvel Cinematic Universe together. That Rocket Raccoon—for all that he and his movie could have alienated the American cinema-going public—was a much safer bet. This is not that. But the seed of all that's to come is here, inchoate in this earliest form. The secret of the phenomenon of Rocket Raccoon is captured in context in these very pages—because what Rocket is, is *unexpected.*

You don't expect a talking animal to take over Hulk's anniversary issue. You don't expect extended riffs on the Beatles, Ken Kesey and silent movie comedies. You don't expect a cyborg walrus, an evil mole, a gigantic robot whose creation takes up half a planet and also takes up a single panel. You don't expect an endless barrage of new names and concepts unrelated to the ostensible star of the book—Halfworld, Inter-Stel Mechanics, Ship, Spacewheel, the Black Bunny Brigade, on and on. You don't expect a turtle who knows the secret of everything to be the force that canonically changes the Hulk forever.

But the Hulk could not be destroyed and rebuilt by a Hulk story. The Hulk needed this kind of shock to the system, this kind of narrative gamma bomb detonated right in the middle of the birthday party, in order for the Hulk train to properly jump the tracks into new territory. It's a violent kind of magic, but it worked on Bruce and it'll work on the Hulk.

And it works for Rocket, too. Because when an audience falls wholeheartedly in love with a wisecracking, fast-talking special effect—techno-art, if you will—at the very moment he appears on the screen, it's because we didn't expect him. He doesn't quite fit in the story, which makes him different, new, special, exciting, interesting, just like here. What must it have been like to be a Hulk reader in 1982, touched by that furry paw for just one issue before it moved on?

Because the Hulk is changed by it forever. It's not Bruce's own experiments or the blast from Galaxy Master that brings on what happens in #272—they help, but it's explicitly Uncle Pyko, the all-knowing turtle, who provides the final straw. During an adventure with Sasquatch, not yet revealed as a gamma mutate himself, there's a sudden hard turn into gruesome horror right after Bereet, safe in Rick and Betty's subplot, expresses a desire for greater realism—and then the Hulk starts talking like Bruce.

The Hulk's had Bruce Banner's brain more than once. But this is subtly different, portending a deeper examination—Bruce is explicitly and actively suppressing the Hulk here, effectively stealing the body from its rightful owner, and that original sin is going to have consequences. Bruce-as-Hulk is playful, revelling in the power, the sheer physicality, in a way he never has before—but that means it's Bruce who makes the awful error and smashes what shouldn't be smashed, damning himself to the knowledge that he's no less destructive than the Hulk. And at every slight from fearful humans who won't immediately take his word that he's not a monster, he's ready to let the monster out again, or fall into his own dark thoughts.

And there's plenty of darkness to go around. We've seen plenty of Rick's—when Bruce returns to him and Betty, we see some of hers, as she makes it very clear that as far as she's concerned, the only good Hulk is a dead Hulk, whether Bruce is in the equation or not. And finally, we get a taste of how truly nasty Bruce can get when he's roused. He doesn't just beat his old enemies the U-Foes, he brutalizes them, melting Ironclad's skin and crushing Vector's bones. These are the earliest glimmers of the Gray Hulk's fighting style, a mix of cunning and sadism, and to see it here drives home that it was maybe always Bruce who was the monster.

We finish up the volume with the status quo utterly changed—Betty is gone and Bereet, having lost her alien camera and with it her symbolic power to alter the narrative, can only watch in dismay as events gather momentum without her input. Even Rick worries that a non-Savage Hulk won't need a sidekick. But joining Hulk in their place, we have the Marvel Super Heroes in their entirety—yes, even Defensor—each one falling over the next to give praise to a weeping Hulk in an orgy of acceptance with all the pomp and glamour of an Oscar night celebration. The story is over, and Bruce Banner won. There's a new story now—a story of a new, Intelligent Hulk, a Hulk who supports the status quo instead of smashing it, a Hulk who can finally be happy.

So why is the Leader the happiest person on the page?

The story goes on, as only the great Bill Mantlo and Sal Buscema could tell it. To be continued.

AL 2024 EWING

Al Ewing is a current writer for Marvel Comics. Recent work includes Immortal Thor, X-Men: Red, Venom, Defenders, Guardians of the Galaxy *and—most relevant in the context of this book—*The Immortal Hulk.

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
50¢
CC
266
DEC
02456

BEGINNING SEPT. 12th ON NBC
SPIDER-MAN
AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS!

©1981 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TM

I'VE MADE MONKEYS OUT OF YOUR FRIENDS, HULK--

--YOU'RE NEXT!

MILGROM

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BILL MANTLO & SAL BUSCEMA / WRITER-STORYTELLERS-ARTIST | JIM NOVAK, LETTERS / BOB SHAREN, COLORS | AL MILGROM / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / CHIEF

DEVOLUTION!

AT ONE TIME IT WAS FASHIONABLE TO "DISCOVER" AMERICA--TO SET OUT ON THE ROAD TO REINFORCE ONE'S OWN PRECONCEPTIONS.

INVARIABLY, A TRAVELER ON SUCH A JOURNEY DISCOVERED MORE ABOUT HIMSELF THAN ABOUT THE ROAD HE TROD.

THESE THREE SOJOURNERS --**BRUCE BANNER, BETTY ROSS,** AND **RICK JONES**--KNOW THEMSELVES ONLY TOO WELL.

IN A THIRD-HAND 1959 PLYMOUTH, THEY HAVE GONE OUT INTO THE DESERT TO CREATE A NEW BEGINNING!

COME WITH US, MARVELITES, ON A JOURNEY TO ERASE THE PAST... TO START ALL OVER AGAIN!

THE ONLY LUGGAGE THESE THREE, FELLOW-TRAVELERS CARRY ON THEIR TRIP IS THEIR EMOTIONS -- RANGING FROM DEPRESSION TO OUTRIGHT EXUBERANCE.

THIS GAS-GUZZLER COST BETTY AND I ALMOST EVERY PENNY IN OUR COMBINED SAVINGS... BUT IT WOULD HAVE COST US EVEN MORE IF THAT SALESMAN HADN'T RECOGNIZED DOC BANNER AS THE MAN WHO BECOMES THE *HULK!*

THE MERE MENTION OF MY NAME SEEMS TO TERRORIZE PEOPLE INTO DOING THINGS THEY'RE UNWILLING TO DO!

DON'T KNOCK IT, DOC! IT GOT US THIS HEAP AT BOOK-VALUE --

--AND WHEELS WERE WHAT WE NEEDED TO GET US AWAY FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND BACK OUT INTO THE DESERT... BACK WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!

RICK'S MEMORY FLIPS BACK, LIKE THE PAGES OF A CALENDAR IN SOME OLD HOLLYWOOD MOVIE...

...TO A DAY, YEARS AGO, WHEN HIS FOOL-HARDY ACT OF WANDERING OUT ONTO A GAMMA BOMB TEST SITE HAD CAUSED THE BOMB'S DESIGNER, DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER, TO RUSH TO HIS RESCUE.

ON THAT DAY, *THE INCREDIBLE HULK* WAS BORN!

I STUCK WITH YOU THEN, DOC -- I'LL STICK WITH YOU NOW!

WE'LL RETURN TO YOUR OLD DESERT LABORATORY! BETTY AND I WILL TRY TO KEEP YOU FROM BECOMING THE HULK--

--WHILE YOU SEARCH FOR A FINAL CURE!

WHILE BETTY ROSS'S MEMORIES SOMETIMES CONVERGE WITH THOSE OF RICK JONES, THEY ALSO TRAVEL A PATH OF THEIR OWN. AGAIN, THE CALENDAR PAGES FLIP...

WHEN WAS IT THAT I FIRST FELL IN LOVE WITH BRUCE BANNER?

WAS IT WHEN HE WAS A SCIENTIST, WORKING FOR MY FATHER?

YOU'RE A MILKSOP, BANNER! YOU'VE GOT NO GUTS!

OH, DADDY, DON'T BE SO UNFAIR! DR. BRUCE BANNER IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST SCIENTISTS!

THANK YOU FOR DEFENDING ME, MISS ROSS.

"OR WAS IT WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS TORMENTED BY A SINISTER SECRET?"

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! *BRUCE BANNER* IS THE *HULK!*

"I TRIED TO MAINTAIN MY LOVE FOR BRUCE, BUT IT WAS SO VERY HARD. EVENTUALLY, SEEKING SOME NORMALCY IN MY LIFE, I MARRIED MAJOR GLENN TALBOT.

"IT WAS WRONG FROM THE START."

I COULD NEVER STOP LOVING BRUCE. I THINK GLENN SENSED THAT. SOON WE WERE DIVORCED. GLENN'S JEALOUSY OF BRUCE BANNER TURNED INTO HATRED OF THE HULK... AND, IN HUNTING THE HULK, ALL HE FOUND WAS DEATH.

I'LL STAY BESIDE YOU THIS TIME, BRUCE. TOGETHER... SOMEHOW... WE'LL SEE THIS THROUGH.

WILL WE? OR ARE WE ALL JUST KIDDING OURSELVES?

IS THERE ANY WAKING FROM THE NIGHTMARE THAT IS... *THE HULK?*

SUDDENLY...

HOLY COW!

SKREEEEEE

THE PAGES OF THE CALENDAR WHIP FURIOUSLY, YEARS PASSING IN FRACTIONS OF A SECOND, MOVING ASIDE MEMORY TO CATCH UP WITH THE PRESENT...

...NOW!

RESTRICTED AREA
KEEP OUT
BY ORDER OF U.S. ARMY

3

A SANDBAG BARRICADE, A MILITARY VEHICLE OVER-TURNED ON THE ROAD. A SIGN PROCLAIMING THIS A "RESTRICTED AREA." I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

MY OLD DESERT LABORATORY ***WAS*** NEAR GAMMA BASE, BETTY!

GAMMA BASE WAS CLOSED DOWN, DOC -- BY A CONGRESSIONAL ORDER!

THERE SHOULDN'T ***BE*** ANY MILITARY PRESENCE HERE, NOW!

THERE ISN'T! NO ***LIVING*** PRESENCE, ANY-WAY! JUST CLOTHING AND WEAPONS STREWN ABOUT--

--AS IF SOMETHING HAD CAUSED THE SOLDIERS TO FLEE NAKED INTO THE DESERT!

THAT'S A HARD ONE TO SWALLOW! MAYBE I'LL FIND SOME CLUE IN THE BACK OF THIS TROOP TRANSPORT...

S-SOMETHING DROPPING ONTO MY SHOULDERS--!

WHAT RICK JONES FINDS IS DEFI-NITELY NOT WHAT HE EXPECTS!

HELP!

OH, RICK!

IT'S ONLY A ***MONKEY!***

YEAH, WELL IT SURE MADE A MONKEY OUTTA ME!

THAT CREATURE IS A ***DRYOPITHECUS AFRICANUS***, EXTINCT FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS!

CHEE?

ITS REMAINS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN AFRICA. WHAT IS THIS ONE DOING HERE-- ***ALIVE*** -- IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH-WEST?

EH? THAT STRANGE GLOW ACROSS THE DESERT...?

IT'S COMING FROM THE AREA WHERE MY OLD LABORATORY LIES HIDDEN!

4

BEFORE BRUCE BANNER CAN WONDER ABOUT THE EERIE GLOW, BRIGHTER THAN THE DESERT SUN, HE FINDS HE HAS OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT...

M-MY HEAD! SUDDENLY I FEEL SO STRANGE!

BETTY!

UNH! N-NOW MY HEAD'S THROBBING TOO, DOC! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?

I DON'T KNOW! THE ARMY POSTED THIS AREA OFF-LIMITS FOR SOME REASON--MAYBE RADIATION DANGER--AND WE WANDERED INTO IT!

COME ON! I'M GETTING YOU TWO OUT OF HERE--*NOW!*

NO YOU'RE NOT, DR. BANNER!

CHEEE!

THE *CAR KEYS!* THEY'VE BEEN SNATCHED FROM THE IGNITION BY THAT ANACHRONISM FROM THE OLIGOCENE AGE!

AND NOW IT'S SCAMPERING ACROSS THE DESERT WITH THEM-- HEADING TOWARDS THAT STRANGE GLOW!

CHEET?

TO GET RICK AND BETTY OUT OF HERE, I'VE GOT TO RETRIEVE THOSE KEYS!

WAIT FOR ME! DON'T WANDER AWAY FROM THE CAR! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

O-OKAY, DOC!

5

BUT AS SOON AS DR. BANNER IS LOST TO SIGHT ACROSS THE DUNES...

B-BETTY, THE THROBBING IN MY HEAD-- IT'S GETTING WORSE!

WE-WE'RE CHANGING, RICK! WE'RE BECOMING LESS *HUMAN!*

BECOMING-- *WHAT?!!*

IN SECONDS, BETTY'S AND RICK'S INTERNAL TIME TELESCOPES MILLIONS OF YEARS.

DESCENDING THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER, THEY GROW SMALLER, THEIR BROWS BEETLE, THEIR SHOULDERS HUNCH FORWARD.

THEY HAVE GONE FROM ***HOMO SAPIENS***--MODERN MAN--TO ***HOMO ERECTUS.***

ANOTHER SECOND, ANOTHER FEW MILLION YEARS, AND THEY DE-VOLVE TO BECOME ***AUSTRALO-PITHECUS AFRICANUS.***

ANOTHER RUNG AND THEIR KNUCK-LES SCRAPE THE SAND. THEY ARE ***RAMAPITHECUS*** NOW--MAN'S ANCESTORS FROM 10 MILLION YEARS AGO.

MONKEYS, IF YOU WILL, TOO SMALL FOR THEIR HUMAN-SIZED CLOTHING.

THE DEVOLUTIONARY DESCENT STOPS AT ABOUT 15 MILLION YEARS. THE CREATURES SHED THEIR STRANGE GARMENTS...

...TWO ***DRYO-PITHECAE AFRICANUS*** AT PLAY.

ON A SAND-CLIFF ABOVE, A ***SABER-TOOTH TIGER*** LOOKS AT WHAT THE MENU HAS TO OFFER, AND DECIDES ON DINNER.

RRRRRRRR

OUT ON THE HARD-BAKED DESERT FLOOR, BRUCE BANNER'S PURSUIT OF AN IMPOSSIBILITY TAKES HIM EVEN FURTHER INTO THE PREHISTORIC PAST.

GOT TO SLOW DOWN! CAN'T LET MY ANXIETY OVER RICK AND BETTY TRIGGER MY TRANSFORMATION TO THE HULK!

I'D BE OF NO USE TO THEM *OR* MYSELF IF THAT HAPPENED!

WHERE IS THAT BLASTED MONKEY?

OVERHEAD, A FLUTTER OF WINGS...

A VULTURE? NO! *ARCHAEOPTERYX!* ONE OF THE FIRST BIRDS TO APPEAR ON EARTH!

AND THERE--A *SABER-TOOTH TIGER* ABOUT TO LEAP UPON A *GIANT TREE SLOTH!* BOTH ANIMALS ARE EXTINCT!

HAS TIME GONE MAD? IS THIS *1981*--OR *50 MILLION B.C.*?

EVOLUTION SEEMS TO BE GOING BACKWARDS--TRANSFORMING DESERT CREATURES INTO THEIR ANCIENT ANCESTRAL FORM--AS I APPROACH THAT GLOW! THERE'S NO QUESTION NOW THAT IT'S COMING FROM MY OLD UNDERGROUND LAB! IS THERE SOMETHING THERE THAT'S CAUSING THIS INSANITY?

MILITARY VEHICLES DRAWN INTO A CIRCLE AROUND THE LAB'S HIDDEN ENTRANCE--

--BUT WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED TO THE *SOLDIERS*?

EVEN AS THE THOUGHT FLASHES ACROSS HIS MIND, BRUCE BANNER INSTINCTIVELY GRASPS THE ANSWER.

GOOD LORD! THE *MONKEYS!*

CHEE

CHEE

CHEE

IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF THE MILITARY GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO DISCOVER MY LAB ENTRANCE HIDDEN WITHIN THIS CAVE BEFORE...

...BEFORE SOMETHING DEVOLVED THEM FROM MEN TO PRE-MEN!

BUT WHAT COULD CAUSE SUCH A TRANSFORMATION? SURELY NONE OF MY MACHINERY...!

OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED! IT WAS THE ONLY ANSWER!

HIM!

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!

LIKE A GOD HE STANDS, FOR LIKE A GOD HE IS-- CREATOR OF WORLDS, MAKER OF MEN AND NEW-MEN, ARMORED ALCHEMIST OF EVOLUTION! LONG AGO, HE ABANDONED THIS PLANET OF HIS ORIGIN TO BIRTH ANOTHER! WHAT WOULD CAUSE HIM TO RETURN NOW?

YOUR ARRIVAL IS QUITE A STROKE OF FORTUNE, DR. BANNER, FOR OF ALL MEN ON EARTH YOU POSSESS THE GENIUS... *TO HELP ME END MY OWN LIFE!*

8

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND...!

NOR DO I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MANAGED TO APPROACH MY PRESENCE WITHOUT BEING DE-EVOLVED INTO SOME LOWER ORDER.

LIKE RICK, BETTY, THE DESERT ANIMALS AND THE SOLDIERS, YOU MEAN?

YES, BUT EVEN AS I ASK, THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION PRESENTS ITSELF. YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE REST. THE GAMMA RAYS IN YOUR BLOODSTREAM MUST SOMEHOW PRECLUDE THE DEVOLUTIONARY EFFECT.

BUT WHY ARE YOU DEVOLVING EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING?

I ASSURE YOU, DR. BANNER, THAT SUCH WAS NOT MY INTENTION.

I MERELY RETURNED TO EARTH THAT I MIGHT *DIE* ON THE PLANET OF MY BIRTH!

IN A POCKET OF BRIGHT BLUE ENERGY DID THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY VOYAGE BACK FROM SPACE.

THERE TO CONFRONT WHAT THEY THOUGHT TO BE A "CLOSE ENCOUNTER", A SQUADRON OF SOLDIERS WERE THE FIRST TO BE DEVOLVED.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHY YOU--A MASTER OF *EVOLUTION*--ARE NOW *DE*-EVOLVING INNOCENT LIFEFORMS!

AS I SAID, THE ACT WAS UNINTENTIONAL.

IS THAT POSSIBLE? *CAN* SOMEONE AS GOD-LIKE AS YOU ACT UNINTENTIONALLY?

"I, TOO, THOUGHT MYSELF LIKE UNTO A GOD, DR. BANNER," THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY SAYS, "UNTIL I LEARNED, TO MY DISMAY, HOW FAR FROM GODHOOD I ACTUALLY WAS. YOU KNOW ME AS THE CREATOR OF A WORLD ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN CALLED ***COUNTER EARTH.*** ONE DAY, NOT LONG AGO, I STIRRED FROM MY MEDITATIONS TO FIND COUNTER-EARTH ... ***GONE.***

"WITH THE UNSOLICITED AID OF THE GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY CALLED ***STARHAWK***, THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S ***THING*** AND HIS COMPANION ***ALICIA MASTERS***, THE SOMETIME AVENGER ***MOONDRAGON***, AND THE GOLDEN ENTITY ***HER***, I INITIATED A SEARCH FOR MY MISSING WORLD. *

*MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #62-63--AL.

"WE SOON FOUND IT IN TOW, BEING DELIVERED BY AN INCREDIBLE ALIEN CALLED ***SPHINXOR*** OF THE ***PEGASUSIAN PLANET MOVERS COMPANY***, TO AN EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE RACE HE CALLED... THE ***BEYONDERS!***"

FOR WHAT PURPOSE, I WONDERED, DID THESE BEYONDERS WANT TO SEE ***MY*** HANDIWORK?

HAD THEY HEARD, ACROSS THE TRACKLESS REACHES OF SPACE, OF MY CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT AND SUMMONED IT FORTH THAT THEY MIGHT MARVEL AT MY GENIUS?

WOULD THEY REGARD THE CREATOR OF COUNTER-EARTH WITH AWE, AND DO ME HOMAGE AS A GOD?

I GATHER FROM YOUR TONE THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED?

"I ACCOMPANIED SPHINXOR TO THE HOME SYSTEM OF THE BEYONDERS. THERE, IN AN INDESCRIBABLE ***MUSEUM OF CURIOUSITIES***, MY WORLD -- COUNTER-EARTH -- WAS PLACED ON DISPLAY... AS AN INTERESTING IF ***PRIMITIVE*** EXPERIMENT BY A TALENTED PROVINCIAL.

"IF ***I*** WAS A GOD, THEN THE ***BEYONDERS*** WERE SO MUCH MORE!

"LEARNING IN THAT WAY OF MY OWN UTTER INSIGNIFICANCE FAIR DROVE ME MAD. IT WAS A FACT WITH WHICH I COULD NOT LIVE.

"I TRIED THEN AND THERE TO DESTROY MYSELF--

"-- BUT MY BODY-ARMOR HAD BEEN CREATED TO PRESERVE MY EXISTENCE AGAINST ANY DANGER TO MY PERSON... EVEN IF THE DANGER CAME FROM MYSELF.

"BATTLING MY OWN ARMOR, I FLED INSANELY THROUGH SPACE."

COULDN'T THE BEYONDERS HAVE HELPED YOU? SURELY ANY RACE AS ADVANCED AS THEY MUST HAVE POSSESSED...

AN ADVANCED *PSYCHIATRY*, AS WELL?

I UNDERSTOOD THAT MY TRAUMA STEMMED FROM MY CONSCIOUS DESIRE TO BE A GOD, DR. BANNER.

DENIED THAT, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE CURED BY SOME SUPERIOR RACE -- I WANTED TO DIE.

THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE DEVOLVING THE OTHERS!

I AM NOT. I AM TRYING TO *DESTROY* MYSELF BY *DEVOLVING* MYSELF. MY ARMOR IS PREVENTING MY SELF-DESTRUCTION--

--BY SLOUGHING MY DEVOLUTIONARY POWER OFF INTO THE SURROUNDING AREA.

THEN YOU'VE GOT TO TRY ANOTHER WAY--!

CHEE

CHEE

TWO MONKEY-LIKE FORMS COME DOWN THE HIDDEN LAB'S STONE STAIRS--

IT IS MIRACULOUS THAT THEY HAVE SURVIVED THE PREHISTORIC PREDATORS RANGING THE DESERT!

ONE WEARS A PENDANT, AND THE OTHER A WRIST-RADIO.

BETTY! RICK!

THERE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT DR. BRUCE BANNER HAS IDENTIFIED HIS MUCH-CHANGED FRIENDS.

NO! YOUR INSANE ATTEMPT TO END YOUR OWN LIFE, BY DEVOLVING YOURSELF OUT OF EXISTENCE, HAS ENDANGERED THE TWO PEOPLE I CARE MOST ABOUT IN THE WORLD!

CHEE!

CHEE?

STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING, HIGH EVOLUTIONARY! YOU MAY HAVE FOUND OUT THAT *YOU'RE* JUST A MAN -- BUT YOU'RE PLAYING GOD WITH THE LIVES OF MY FRIENDS!

STOP IT, OR BY ALL THAT'S HOLY, I'LL--!

YOU'LL WHAT, DR. BANNER? GET ANGRY? I MUST CONFESS, I DECEIVED YOU IN MY FIRST STATEMENT.

YOUR MIND, WHILE BRILLIANT, IS FAR LESS SO THAN MY OWN EVOLVED INTELLECT. YOUR GENIUS CANNOT HELP ME TO DESTROY MYSELF.

BUT, PERHAPS WHERE INTELLECT FAILS--SAVAGERY STANDS A CHANCE.

I KNEW, OF COURSE, WHAT YOU BECOME WHEN YOUR ANGER OVER-WHELMS YOU, HAVING SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE.

I SOUGHT YOUR TRANSFORMATION AS SOON AS I SENSED YOUR PRESENCE. I ALLOWED YOUR FRIENDS TO BE PLACED IN DANGER TO BRING IT ABOUT. I NEEDED THE *HULK* TO DESTROY MY DEFIANT ARMOR, YOU SEE--

--FOR ONLY HIS BRUTE STRENGTH STANDS A CHANCE OF FREEING ME FROM IT, SO THAT I MAY END MY OWN EXISTENCE.

12

CHEE! CHEE!

HULK REMEMBERS YOU! HULK SAW YOU TURN INTO A GOD AND RISE LIKE A STAR INTO THE SKY! *

I WAS NOT A GOD THEN, HULK, NOR AM I NOW. I AM BUT A MAN WHO WISHES TO CEASE TO BE. I TURNED YOUR FRIENDS INTO ANIMALS, HULK.

ANIMALS? RICK AND BETTY?

YES. I DID IT TO MAKE YOU HATE ME. *DO* YOU HATE ME, HULK?

YES!

THEN *HURT* ME, HULK, AS YOU HAVE NEVER HURT ANYONE BEFORE.

*AS SHOWN IN THE CLASSIC TALES TO ASTONISH #96 --ARCHIVAL AL.

SMASH!

HURT YOU? HULK WILL *SMASH* YOU!

BY CREATION--!

IS METAL-MASK HURT ENOUGH? WILL METAL MASK TURN HULK'S FRIENDS HUMAN?

ARMOR STILL INTACT --DEFYING MY ATTEMPTS TO DEVOLVE MYSELF...

NO, HULK. IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS, YOU MUST STRIKE --AND STRIKE AGAIN--

--UNTIL I AM NO MORE!

13

IF THAT IS WHAT METAL-MASK WANTS, THEN THAT IS WHAT METAL-MASK WILL GET... *UNNHHH!*

SO METAL-MASK IS NOT HELPLESS? METAL MASK KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT BACK!

NO, HULK, IT WAS MY ARMOR THAT RAISED MY HAND AGAINST YOU-- PRESERVING A LIFE I NO LONGER WISH TO LIVE.

HUNH! GROUND BENEATH HULK TURNS TO *TAR*--

--TO *BOILING LAVA*--

--TO *CHOKING GAS!*

JUST SOME OF THE STAGES THIS AREA OF THE EARTH WENT THROUGH ON ITS WAY UP THE LADDER OF CREATION!

UNABLE TO DEVOLVE ***YOU***, MY ARMOR IS TRYING TO PREVENT YOU FROM SLAYING ME BY DEVOLVING THE VERY EARTH UPON WHICH YOU STAND BACK TO ITS PRIMORDIAL BEGINNINGS AS A GASEOUS COSMIC CLOUD.

14

NOW GROUND IS SUDDENLY GROUND AGAIN ?

I RE-EVOLVED IT, OVERRIDING MY ARMOR. IT ALLOWED ME TO DO SO, BECAUSE SAVING YOU COULD NOT BE SEEN AS AN ATTACK UPON MYSELF.

DO YOU HEAR? MY ARMOR "*ALLOWED*" ME!

I CREATED IT--INVESTED IT WITH INCREDIBLE POWER--AND NOW IT DEFIES ME AS IF WITH A WILL OF ITS OWN!

EVEN NOW, IT KNOWS THAT YOU ARE BUT AN INSTRUMENT OF MY DESTRUC-TION--

--SO IT SEEKS TO TURN YOU FROM BATTLING ME--TO FIGHTING YOUR FRIENDS.

THE ARMOR EVOLVES THEM NOW, FROM HARMLESS DRYOPITHECINES--

--UP THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER SCALED BY MANKIND--

--TO SAVAGE, SNARLING *NEANDERTHALS!*

RRAARGHH!

ROWR!

RICK! BETTY! METAL-MASK HAS CHANGED THEM AGAIN, FROM MONKEY TO APE-THINGS WHO LEAP TO ATTACK HULK!

THEY SEEK TO SLAY YOU, HULK -- WHILE YOU MUST DEFEND YOURSELF WITHOUT CAUSING THEM HARM!

15

GRARR SNARRL!

A DILEMMA FOR THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH...

...BUT THE HULK NEED NOT FIGHT THOSE WHOM HE CAN EASILY HURL AWAY!

HULK WILL NOT HURT HULK'S FRIENDS!

HULK WILL HURT METAL-MASK WHO MADE HULK'S FRIENDS INTO APE-THINGS!

YES. COME. END MY EXISTENCE. WHICH MY DEFIANT ARMOR RENDERS ME INCAPABLE OF ENDING MYSELF.

BUT, NO! AGAIN MY ARMOR ALLOWS ME TO NEITHER SUBMIT TO NOR BRING ABOUT MY OWN DESTRUCTION.

IT RESISTS, BY NOT ONLY ACCELERATING YOUR FRIENDS' EVOLUTION--

-- BUT BY ACCELERATING THE EVOLUTION OF THE VERY DESERT ITSELF!

WHAT HAS METAL-MASK DONE TO HULK'S FRIENDS? WHAT HAS METAL-MASK DONE TO HULK'S *WORLD*?

A GOOD QUESTION, JADE JAWS...

16

...BUT THE ANSWER MAY VERY WELL SEND CHILLS DOWN EVEN YOUR SPINE!

METAL-MASK HAS TURNED BETTY AND RICK INTO MONSTERS!

NOT MONSTERS, HULK -- MUTANTS! BEINGS INDIGENOUS TO THIS CRATERED, RADIOACTIVE ROCK THAT THE EARTH WILL BECOME IN A MILLION MILLION YEARS.

MY ARMOR WILL GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO ENSURE MY SURVIVAL, WHETHER I WILL IT TO OR NOT.

MUTANTS. MONSTERS. WHAT DIFFERENCE THE TERMINOLOGY? ALL THAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT THESE CREATURES-- MILLIONS OF YEARS BEYOND THE RICK JONES AND BETTY ROSS WHO HAD BEEN THE HULK'S ONLY FRIENDS...

...REACT INIMICALLY TO THE GREEN GOLIATH!

SKREE!

SKREE!

IF ONLY I COULD ABANDON MY DESIRE FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION, THIS INSANITY WOULD END!

BUT I CANNOT. IF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY CANNOT LIVE AS A GOD, HE WILL NOT LIVE AT ALL.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT MAY BE THE HULK OR HIS MUTATED FRIENDS...

...WHO EXPIRE BEFORE THE DEATH-SEEKING HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.

SUDDENLY...

HUNH? MONSTERS THAT ARE RICK AND BETTY HAVE STOPPED FIGHTING HULK! THEY MAKE CHOKING SOUNDS -- LIKE THEY CANNOT BREATHE!

17

WHAT LITTLE ATMOSPHERE REMAINS ON THIS SECTOR OF EARTH IS RAPIDLY VANISHING, HULK -- TRAILING OFF INTO SPACE AS MY ARMOR SPEEDS UP EVOLUTION --

--AND METEORITES, WHICH HITHERTO WOULD HAVE BURNED UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE, NOW RAIN DOWN FREELY IN ITS ABSENCE.

METEORITES CANNOT HURT HULK -- AND HULK CAN HOLD HIS BREATH A LONG TIME!

NOT LONG ENOUGH, HULK -- AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE DEAD LONG BEFORE YOU ARE. COME. I CANNOT COMMAND MY ARMOR. IF YOU WOULD SAVE YOUR FRIENDS AND YOURSELF, YOU MUST DESTROY MY ARMOR... AND ME.

HULK DOES NOT KNOW WHY METAL-MASK WANTS TO DIE, BUT -- FOR HURTING HULK'S FRIENDS --HULK WILL HELP HIM DO IT!

THEY CLASH, GREEN GOLIATH AND MASTER OF EVOLUTION, ON AN EVOLVED ACRE OF DESERT, THAT LOOKS MORE LIKE THE MOON THAN THE EARTH.

THE CLAMOR OF THEIR CONFLICT CARRIES POORLY IN THE THIN ATMOSPHERE.

NO MINDLESS DESERT CREATURE SCURRYING TO SAFETY WILL EVER EVOLVE ENOUGH TO REPORT...

...ON THE DAY THE INCREDIBLE HULK FELLED AN ALMOST-GOD!

FOOM!

FROM!

FAVROOM!

FRAK!

FRATOW!

E-ENOUGH! MY ARMOR... HAS CEASED TO FUNCTION!

THAT WHICH TOOK ME YEARS TO CONSTRUCT, YOU HAVE DESTROYED IN LESS THAN AN HOUR.

METAL-MASK WANTED THIS.

YES. YES, I WANTED IT, HULK.

I THANK YOU FOR ACCOMPLISHING THAT WHICH I COULD NOT ACCOMPLISH MYSELF.

NO MORE TALK! HULK HAS WON! TURN MUTANTS BACK TO HULK'S FRIENDS-- MAKE EARTH RIGHT AGAIN --OR HULK WILL SMASH!

YOUR SAVAGE STRENGTH HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE, HULK. THERE IS NO NEED TO DEMONSTRATE IT FURTHER!

19

FREE OF MY ARMOR, I AM AGAIN THE UNDISPUTED MASTER OF EVOLUTION. I CAN EVOLVE--OR DEVOLVE --WHATEVER I WISH.

THEN DO IT! TURN MUTANTS BACK TO RICK AND BETTY! DO IT BEFORE THEY DIE!

DO IT I SHALL, HULK!

LONG AGO, A MAN DISCOVERED HOW TO EVOLVE ANIMALS INTO NEW-MEN. HE WAS CONSIDERED A GENIUS.

THEN HE TOOK A DUST MOTE AND MADE IT INTO A PLANET. THOSE WHO KNEW HIM CONSIDERED HIM A GOD.

LATER STILL THE MAN BECAME AWARE THAT, NO MATTER HOW EXTENSIVE HIS GODLIKE POWERS, THERE WERE OTHERS MORE GODLIKE THAN HIMSELF.

THOUGH THE MAN COULD STILL WEAVE WONDERS, CREATE SEEMING MIRACLES SUCH AS ACCELERATING OR REVERSING EVOLUTION, IT WAS NO LONGER ENOUGH.

RICK? BETTY?

HE HAD MADE GODHOOD HIS GOAL IN LIFE, AND THE THOUGHT OF LIVING LIFE AS ANYTHING **LESS** THAN A GOD...WAS INTOLERABLE.

I HAVE RESTORED YOUR FRIENDS, THE SOLDIERS, AND THE SURROUNDING DESERT TO THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE MY ARMOR MANIPULATED EVOLUTION. I CAN EXPIRE WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE.

WHAT IS "EXPIRE"?

DIE, HULK. NOW I CAN DIE!

THE MASTER OF EVOLUTION WILL NOW CEASE TO SWIM IN THE STREAM OF LIFE--

--BY DEVOLVING HIMSELF OUT OF EXISTENCE...

GONE! NO TRACE OF METAL-MASK REMAINS!

HE MADE HULK HELP HIM GET WHAT HE WANTED BY PLACING HULK'S FRIENDS IN DANGER!

HULK SHOULD HATE HIM, BUT ALL HULK FEELS IS SORRY!

ALL HE WANTED TO DO WITH ALL HIS POWER WAS FIND A WAY TO DIE!

ALL *HULK* WANTS TO DO WITH *HIS* POWER IS FIND A WAY TO *LIVE!*

LIVING IS HARDER, HULK THINKS--

--BUT BETTER THAN DYING!

21

HE RETURNS FROM OVER THE RAINBOW, BRINGING NOT-SO-BEAUTIFUL DREAMS...

GLORIAN!

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

60¢ | 267 JAN 02456

©1981 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

WIN A Columbia® TEN-SPEED FORMULA 10™ RACER!

DETAILS INSIDE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TM

WRONG END OF THE RAINBOW

MILGROM

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BILL MANTLO & SAL BUSCEMA
WRITER · STORYTELLERS · ARTIST

JIM NOVAK, LETTERS
BOB SHAREN, COLORS

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IN BRUCE BANNER'S DESERT LABORATORY, UNDER THE NEW MEXICO SANDS, **BETTY ROSS**, **RICK JONES**, AND **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** ARE ABOUT TO DISCOVER THE NIGHTMARE ON THE FLIP-SIDE OF THAT OLD SONG...

WHAT A DAY FOR A DAYDREAM!*

*WITH APOLOGIES TO THE **LOVIN' SPOONFUL!**

PLEASE, HULK! YOU MUST POSITION YOURSELF BEFORE THE **GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR!** IT WON'T HURT YOU! I PROMISE!

MACHINES **ALWAYS** HURT HULK! BUT IF BETTY SAYS THIS ONE IS DIFFERENT...

HULK WILL STAND IN FRONT OF MACHINE, BUT IF MACHINE HURTS HULK--

HULK WILL SMASH! YEAH, WE KNOW ***THAT*** ABOUT YA, BIG BUDDY!

THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS WE'VE COME TO THIS DESERT LAB TO TRY TO CHANGE!

ALMOST SET, FOLKS! DOC BANNER TAUGHT ME HOW TO WORK THIS GIZMO YEARS AGO! I'M JUST AMAZED THAT THE MACHINERY'S SURVIVED ALL THIS TIME THE LAB'S BEEN ABANDONED!

BUT I GUESS BRUCE BANNER BUILT IT TO LAST!

BANNER! BANNER! BANNER! WHY DO RICK AND BETTY ALWAYS TALK ABOUT PUNY *BANNER?!*

BECAUSE YOU *ARE* BRUCE BANNER, HULK! DEEP DOWN INSIDE YOU IS A LONELY, TORMENTED, GENTLE MAN...

...CRYING TO BE FREE!

IT IS HULK WHO WANTS TO BE FREE OF BANNER! HE ALWAYS HAUNTS HULK! WHENEVER BANNER APPEARS, HULK IS SENT AWAY!

WE'D LIKE TO SET YOU *BOTH* FREE, HULK!

YOU FROM BRUCE BANNER AND HIM FROM YOU!

AND WE CAN DO IT... WITH THE *GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR!*

HULK KNOWS ABOUT GREEN RAYS! THEY MAKE HULK STRONGER EACH TIME THEY TOUCH HULK-- BUT THEY ALSO HURT!

YEAH, I'LL JUST BET THEY *DO*, GREEN-GUY! WHAT KIND OF LINE ARE WE FEEDING THE BIG STIFF? THIS GAMMA FRAMISTAT'LL *FREE* BRUCE BANNER ALL RIGHT--

--BY BAMFING THE HULK OUTTA THE PICTURE! BUT IT'S WHAT THE *DOC* WANTS--

BEHIND THE SHIELDING, BETTY! I'M GONNA HIT THE SWITCH... *NOW!*

A FOOT-THICK LEAD-IMPREGNATED PLEXISHIELD DROPS BETWEEN THE HULK AND HIS HUMAN COMPANIONS...

A MILLI-INSTANT LATER, THE UNDERGROUND CHAMBER EXPLODES IN A GARISH GREEN GLOW...

BETTY LIED! RAYS *HURT* HULK! *RAARGHH!*

*...AT THE CENTER OF WHICH, THE GAMMA-IRRADIATED GARGOYLE, WHOM MEN CALL THE **HULK**, SNARLS A SNARL OF BETRAYAL!*

2

I-I DIDN'T LIE TO HIM! I DIDN'T KNOW THE GAMMA RAY TREATMENT WOULD CAUSE HIM PAIN!

DIDN'T YOU, BETTY? I SUPPOSE IT WAS SOME KINDA *PICNIC* WHEN GAMMA RAYS TURNED YOU INTO THE *HARPY?* *

I-I'D FORGOTTEN HOW... HORRIBLE... THAT WAS!

*IT HAPPENED WAY BACK IN *HULK* #168 -- ARCHIVAL AL.

PAIN IS A PRICE I'M WILLING TO PAY, RICK--

--FOR A MOMENT, AN HOUR, A DAY OF LIFE WITHOUT THE HULK!

NOW I THINK WE'D BETTER GET STARTED DOING WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO!

FINDING A PERMANENT CURE FOR MY GREEN SKIN CONDITION... *UNNHH!*

DOC BANNER!

HE'S EXHAUSTED! HE HASN'T EATEN OR SLEPT IN DAYS!

NO, NOT SINCE WE FOUND THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY* ENSCONCED HERE IN MY LAB! * DID I... DID THE HULK...?

KILL HIM? NO, DOC, THE HULK JUST SMASHED THE BIG E'S ARMOR! THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY DID THE REST!

NOW, C'MON, BETTY'S RIGHT YOU'RE OUT ON YOUR FEET!

YOU COULDN'T FIND A CURE FOR A HEADACHE UNTIL AFTER YOU GET SOME SHUTEYE!

THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER...

THERE! HE'S SLEEPING LIKE A BABY!

AND ALMOST AS HELPLESS WHEN IT COMES TO LIVING A NORMAL LIFE!

RIGHT! THAT'S WHY *WE'RE* WITH HIM-- TO HELP HIM FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE IT IN A WORLD THAT'D LIKE TO SEE HIM STUFFED!

WE'RE THE ONLY FRIENDS DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER'S GOT, BETTY!

WE CAN'T EVER LET HIM OR THE HULK DOWN!

THIS LAB ISN'T STOCKED WITH PROVISIONS!

I'M GOING TO TAKE THE CAR INTO TOWN AND GET SOME FOOD!

I'LL BE HERE, I'LL *ALWAYS* BE HERE... LONG AS THE DOC NEEDS ME.

*ODDLY ENOUGH, A **RAINBOW** ARCS OVER THE DESERT. RICK JONES TAKES IT AS AN OMEN...* 3

...BUT AN OMEN OF WHAT?!

AS

REPAIRS

WELCOME TO DUSTBOWL POP. 652

SAM'S DINER

GOOD FOOD

MOTEL

SUNSET DRIVE-IN

THE OFFICIAL PLACARD IS MISLEADING. THE WIDOW PERKINS DIED LAST WEEK, LEAVING **DUSTBOWL** WITH A POPULATION OF ONLY SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY ONE.

ONLY A HANDFUL OF THAT NUMBER ACTUALLY LIVE IN THE TOWN ITSELF, OF COURSE.

SAM'S

COOL FOOD

THE CENSUS COUNTS WANDERING SHEEP-HERDERS ON OUTLYING RANCHES AMONG DUST-BOWL'S INHABITANTS.

THE SHEEP-HERDERS VEHEMENTLY DENY IT.

SAM MELVILLE IS ONE OF THE 651 WHO DOESN'T MIND BEING A DUSTBOWLER. NOT NOW, AT ANY RATE.

OH, LIKE MOST MEN HE ONCE DREAMED OF SOMETHING BETTER...

TODAY'S CHEESE FRE... IAL GER

...AN ELEGANT RESTAURANT SERVING DISHES HE CAN'T EVEN PRONOUNCE...

NOW HE'S CONTENT TO SLING HIS HASH TO OTHERS WHO'VE LONG SINCE ABANDONED THEIR ASPIRATIONS.

MAYOR LYLE WHO'D ONCE TRIED TO WIN A STATE OFFICE... AND FAILED.

AND **SHERIFF BATES** WHO'D ALWAYS HOPED TO BE A **REAL** POLICEMAN.

MRS. MELVILLE HAD HAD DREAMS ONCE, TOO, SAM REMEMBERED, OF HERSELF AS A GLAMOROUS HOSTESS IN SAM'S FANCY RESTAURANT.

NOW SHE WAITS ON PIMPLY **BILLY MOLT** WHO SEES HIMSELF AS CHRISTOPHER REEVE...

...AND SILLY **MAPLE WAITS** WHO LIKENS HERSELF TO BROOKE SHIELDS.

ONLY IN THEIR **DREAMS** OF COURSE.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER DREAMERS IN SAM'S DINER THIS DAY?

WELL, THERE'S THE LAME **JACK HORN** WHO'D LIKE NOT TO BE LAME...

...AND OLD **TOM MARTIN** AND **ABNER PERRY** WHO'D LIKE NOT TO BE OLD.

4

SAM MELVILLE'S HEARD THEIR DREAMS AS OFTEN AS THEY'VE HEARD HIS. HE'S SCOOPED THEM OFF THE COUNTER WITH THEIR PITIFUL TIPS.

AND THOSE DREAMS HAVE ALL BEEN ABOUT AS EPHEMERAL AS THE THINGS SAM'S INCOME HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO BUY.

JUST DREAMS.

AND DREAMS DON'T COME TRUE.

GAS

DO THEY?

QUIET NIGHT TONIGHT, SHERIFF?

WHO YOU KIDDIN', MR. MAYOR? IT'S ALWAYS QUIET IN DUSTBOWL!

NEVER ENOUGH NOISE IN THIS TOWN TO STIR THE DEAD.

I GUESS WE'RE LUCKY THAT WAY, SHERIFF. NO CRIME, NO TROUBLE.

SAM, YOU LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW, LATELY?

WHY, NO, MARY -- CAN'T SAY AS I HAVE. WHY?

WELL, IT'S JUST THAT THERE'S THIS... *RAINBOW*... OUT THERE -- ADDIN' MORE COLOR TO THIS HERE TOWN THAN I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE!

THEIR ALL-BUT-ATROPHIED CURIOUSITY AROUSED, THE DUSTBOWL DINERS TURN THEIR GAZE UP MAIN STREET IN TIME TO SEE... THE ***STRANGER!***

HE IS DIFFERENT THAN ANY YOUTH EVER RAISED IN DUST-BOWL. HE HAS ABOUT HIM THE LOOK OF ONE WHO HAS DREAMED DREAMS, AND SEEN THEM REALIZED.

PERHAPS THAT IS WHY ALL EYES ARE ON THE STRANGER WHEN SAM MELVILLE ASKS...

UH, ANYTHIN' WE CAN GET YOU, FELLA?

NO, SAMUEL MELVILLE. IT IS *I* WHO HAVE COME TO OFFER *YOU*...

DREAMS!

THE DENIZENS OF SAM'S DINER SEE THE STRANGER RAISE HIS HAND, PALM OUT...

...THEN THEY ALL FEEL THEMSELVES SLIPPING INTO A SEDUCTIVELY SENSUOUS SOMNAMBULANCE...

...IN WHICH THEY DISCOVER THAT THEIR MOST FERVENT **DREAMS** HAVE SUDDENLY **COME TRUE!**

SAM!

MARY!

Menu

SHERIFF!

MAYOR!

MY LEG! IT'S FIXED! I CAN WALK STRAIGHT!

MAPLE, I-- WE-- IS THIS **HEAVEN?**

NO, BILLY MOLT-- IT'S **HOLLYWOOD!**

BET I CAN PIN YOU TWO-OUT-OF-THREE, ABNER PERRY!

MAYBE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, TOM MARTIN! WAIT A MINUTE! YOU **ARE YOUNG!** A-AND SO AM I!

MR. MAYOR, ARE-- ARE MY EYES DECEIVING ME OR...

...OR HAS **DUSTBOWL** COME ALIVE?!!

IT HAS. IN AN INSTANT, THE LIVING GHOST TOWN HAS BECOME A THRIVING COMMUNITY, WITH SHERIFF BATES' SPANKING-NEW **SQUAD CAR** A SIGN AND SYMBOL OF ITS NEW PROSPERITY.

BOUTIQUE

HERIFF

6

THEN THE STRANGER'S SOOTHINGLY SIBILANT VOICE SLIPS AGAIN INTO THE DUSTBOWLERS' CONSCIOUSNESS...

ARE THERE OTHERS IN THIS TOWN WHO WOULD LIKE TO LIVE OUT THEIR *DREAMS*?

MISTER, THERE AIN'T A MAN, WOMAN OR CHILD IN DUSTBOWL WHO *WOULDN'T*.!!

GOOD, THEN LET US GO FORTH AND SHARE THIS NEWFOUND HAPPINESS OF YOURS WITH THEM.

THE UNDREAMED OF SOUND OF SINGING, IN THE STREETS OF DUSTBOWL, DRAWS THE REST OF THE TOWN'S CITIZENRY FROM THEIR DRAB DOMICILES...

...AND OUT AMONG THEIR DANCING NEIGHBORS WHERE THEIR DREAMS, TOO, BECOME REALITY!

LIKE CHILDREN FOLLOWING A MODERN-DAY PIPER, THEY LET THE STRANGER LEAD THEM TO THEIR MECCA...

...WHICH IS ONE WAY TO DESCRIBE THE *SUNSET DRIVE-IN MOVIE THEATER*!

THUS IT IS THAT, SOME TIME LATER, BETTY ROSS FINDS HERSELF ARRIVING IN A SECOND-HAND CONVERTIBLE...

...ON THE RECENTLY-DESERTED STREETS OF DUSTBOWL, NEW MEXICO.

EVERYTHING'S OPEN, BUT THERE'S NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT! EH? WHAT'S THAT SOUND..?

CHILDREN--LAUGHING AND SINGING...

...WHILE THEIR PARENTS *DANCE IN THE STREETS*!

IS THIS SOME KIND OF TOWN FAIR? SOME FESTIVAL?

OR HAVE THESE PEOPLE ESCAPED FROM A NEARBY *ASYLUM*?

NONE OF THE ABOVE, BETTY ROSS. THEY ARE MERELY PEOPLE SET FREE FROM THEIR OWN LIMITATIONS.

YOU--YOU KNOW ME??

I KNOW OF... *YOUR DREAMS*!

THE POOR DEAR! SHE'S NOT DREAMING *WITH* US!

LET GO, DEAR!
LET THE DREAM WASH OVER YOU!
JOIN US!
NO, I-- TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

YOU! SOMEHOW I SENSE THAT YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THESE PEOPLE?!
WHY, I'VE MADE THEM *HAPPY*, BETTY!

AS HAPPY AS I'M GOING TO MAKE--

--YOU!

THERE, BETTY DARLING! ISN'T THAT BETTER?
ISN'T THE *DREAM* ALWAYS BETTER THAN THE *REALITY*?
BRUCE BANNER STANDS BEFORE HER...
...FREE OF THE HORROR MEN CALL *THE HULK*...

...AT LAST EVERYTHING SHE'S EVER WANTED!
OH, YES, BRUCE! IT-- IT'S WONDERFUL! *WONDERFUL!*
THERE!
THEY MAKE A NICE COUPLE, DON'T THEY?

EMBRACING HER DREAM, BETTY ROSS FAILS TO NOTICE "BRUCE BANNER" TURNING HIS GAZE SKYWARD, AND FAILS TO HEAR HIS WHISPERED QUESTION...
WELL, TEACHER? HOW AM I DOING?
8

NOW ACROSS THE DESERT SANDS WE ROAM, GETTING OUT OF THAT OLD DUSTBOWL UNTIL RICK JONES WE FIND...

DOC BANNER'S STILL ASLEEP, AND BETTY'S BEEN GONE FOR HOURS.

I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT HER IF IT WASN'T SUCH A NICE NIGHT. THAT RAINBOW MAKES EVERYTHING SEEM SO PEACEFUL...

WAIT A MINUTE! RAINBOW? NIGHT?

RAINBOWS DON'T COME OUT AT NIGHT!

SECONDS LATER, AFTER TAKING THE HEWN STONE STEPS OF THE DESERT LAB THREE AT A TIME, RICK CRIES OUT...

DOC! DOC BANNER! WAKE UP! I THINK SOME-THING'S WRONG!

WHA--? RICK?! WHAT IS IT, SON? WHAT'S THE MATTER?!

IT'S BETTY, DOC! SHE TOOK THE CAR HOURS AGO TO GET US SOME PROVISIONS AND HASN'T COME BACK!

BETTY'S A BIG GIRL NOW, RICK. PERHAPS SHE JUST GOT A FLAT TIRE!

I DON'T SEE ANY CAUSE FOR ALARM!

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE *RAINBOW!*

RAINBOW?

YEAH, LIGHTIN' UP THE NIGHT SKY! DOC, IT ISN'T NATURAL!

AND IT TOUCHES THE DESERT SOMEWHERE NEAR THAT TOWN BETTY DROVE TO!

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME SIMPLE, RATIONAL EXPLANATION FOR...

NO! I HAVE SO MANY ENEMIES! PERHAPS THIS IS SOME SCHEME OF THEIRS

--TO STRIKE AT ME... AT THE *HULK*... THROUGH BETTY!

WHY DOESN'T IT EVER STOP? WHY DOES TROUBLE FOLLOW ME WHEREVER I GO?!

DOC! HEY, DOC! TAKE IT EASY!

I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET YOU ALL EXCITED-- TO GET YOUR PULSE RACING!

DIDN'T YOU, RICK JONES?

WHEN YOU CAME INTO THE LAB CRYING OUT IN ALARM, WAS IT REALLY THE AID OF BRUCE BANNER YOU SOUGHT?

AFTER ALL, HOW COULD A SCRAWNY PHYSICIST HELP BETTY?

9

NO, IT WAS NOT BRUCE BANNER YOU HOPED WOULD DELIVER BETTY FROM EVIL...

...BUT THE GOOD DOCTOR'S AWESOME ALTER-EGO-- THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

BETTY? BETTY IS IN TROUBLE?

YES! NO! MAYBE! I-I DON'T KNOW, HULK! WHEN SHE DIDN'T COME BACK FROM TOWN--!

TOWN HURT BETTY?

HULK WILL SMASH TOWN!

NO, HULK! FOR THE LUVVA PETE, WILL YOU SLOW DOWN AND *LISTEN*?!?

WHAT IS TO LISTEN? BETTY IS IN TROUBLE!

HULK WILL HELP BETTY!

ISN'T THAT WHY RICK CALLED HULK??

YOU *DID* SUMMON FORTH THE HULK, RICK JONES!

YOU *KNOW* YOU DID.

WAIT, HULK! WAIT FOR ME!

WHO SOWS THE WIND, HE SHALL REAP THE *WHIRLWIND!* --HOSEA 8:7

BUT IT IS THE DINGY TOWN OF DUSTBOWL, AT THE RAINBOW'S END, WHICH WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PIPER FOR RICK JONES'S RATHER RASH CONJURING FORTH OF THE GREAT GREEN MONSTER MEN CALL...

...THE HULK!

HULK FOLLOWED FUNNY LIGHT IN SKY! FUNNY LIGHT HAS LED HULK TO TOWN!

GAS

10

TOWN IS WHERE RICK SAID BETTY WAS IN TROUBLE! HULK WILL FIND BETTY, AND...

MOTEL

SUNSET DRIVE-IN

YES, HULK--WE KNOW. THEN YOU WILL *SMASH* THE TOWN. BUT WHAT IS IT THAT SUDDENLY DERAILS YOUR TRAIN OF THOUGHT? IS IT THE SOUND OF... *SINGING*?

IS IT THE BELL-LIKE PEALS OF **LAUGHTER** THAT CONFUSE YOU, HULK?

IS IT THE UNMISTAKABLE SOUND OF PEOPLE AT **PLAY** THAT THROWS YOU FOR A LOSS?

ARE YOU **DREAMING** IT ALL, HULK?

OR ARE **THEY?**

SWING YOUR PARTNER, DO-SI-DO...!

MY FELLOW CITIZENS, AS **GOVERNOR** OF THIS FAIR STATE--!

IS THIS NOT A PLEASANT PLACE TO BE, BETTY?

OH, YES, BRUCE! EVERY-ONE'S SO HAPPY!

ANYONE FOR MORE *HORS D'OUEVRES?*

AS HAPPY AS **WE** ARE, DAR-LING!

HUNH? BETTY IS NOT IN TROUBLE! BETTY IS **HAPPY** HERE!

HAPPY WITH **HIM!**

HULK KNOWS YOU, GOLDEN-SKIN! HULK IS NOT STUPID! HULK REMEMBERS YOU!

FOR A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT THE EDGES OF THE DUSTBOWLERS' DREAMS SEEM TO QUIVER, TO QUAKE...

...BUT ONLY FOR AN INSTANT, AND THEN THE STRANGER REASSERTS CONTROL OVER ALL THOSE ASSEMBLED.

B-BRUCE, WHY IS HE CALLING YOU THAT?!

ALL SAVE THE HULK!

YOU ARE **GLORIAN!** YOU ARE **DREAM-WEAVER!**

HE IS DELUDED, DEAR BETTY! THE POOR MONSTER--

--HAVING NO DREAMS OF HIS OWN, HE CAN ONLY INTRUDE UPON THE DREAMS OF OTHERS.

B-BUT, HE--HE'S **YOU!** IF **YOU'RE** HERE, HOW CAN **HE...!** I-I'M SO CONFUSED, BRUCE!

THE STRANGER... SCOWLS!

THE TEST IS GOING ALL WRONG! THE ARRIVAL OF THE HULK HAS CAUSED BETTY ROSS TO QUESTION HER DREAMS!

SHE CANNOT RECONCILE THE APPARENT ANOMALY OF BOTH ASPECTS OF BRUCE BANNER'S PERSONA BEING IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME!

IF I DO NOT ACT SWIFTLY, SHE WILL BE SHOCKED FROM HER SOMNAMBULISTIC STATE--

--HER DREAM HOPELESSLY SHATTERED!

GOLDEN FINGERS GENTLY GRAZE THE GREEN GOLIATH'S FOREHEAD...

PEACE, FRIEND HULK! I BRING YOU--

--DREAMS!

THIS IS A WONDERFUL DINNER, YOU'VE PREPARED, MOTHER!

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT, BRUCE, DEAR! YOU'VE GOT QUITE AN APPETITE, LATELY.

HE'S A GROWING BOY. HOW'RE THINGS AT COLLEGE, SON?

FINE, DAD. JUST FINE. MY PROFESSORS THINK THE WORLD OF...

BRUCE BANNER, YOU ARE FAST BECOMING OUR *STAR PUPIL!*

I TRY MY BEST, PROFESSOR. I HOPE TO MAKE MY CAREER IN *SCIENCE.*

I'M SURE YOU WILL, BRUCE. WHY ONE DAY THEY'LL BE CALLING YOU...

BANNER, YOU GUTLESS MILKSOP! WHAT'S HOLDING UP THIS *GAMMA BOMB* TEST?

YOUR CONSTANT INTERRUPTIONS, FOR ONE THING, DADDY!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, MISS ROSS...

MISS ROSS? *BETTY?* HOW CAN YOU BE WITH HULK, WHEN YOU ARE THERE... WITH *HIM?*

HULK KNOWS! HULK REMEMBERS! IT WAS ALL A *DREAM!*

GOLDEN MAN WANTS HULK TO DREAM SO GOLDEN MAN CAN STEAL *BETTY!*

GOLDEN MAN?

WHY DOES THE HULK CALL YOU THAT, BRUCE DARLING?

12

HULK CALLS GOLDEN MAN THAT BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT GOLDEN MAN IS! HE IS NOT "BRUCE DARLING"! **HULK** IS **BRUCE!**

ISN'T THAT WHAT BETTY HAS BEEN *TELLING* HULK?!?

Y-YES! TH-THAT'S WHY YOU ALLOWED US TO BRING YOU TO THE DESERT, HULK-- BECAUSE PART OF YOU BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND--

--THAT **YOU** AND **BRUCE BANNER** ARE **ONE!** TH-THEN WHO--?!

NO! THE WOMAN WAKES! SHE SEES ME AS I TRULY AM!

EVERYTHING IS GOING WRONG!

AND WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, A NATURAL HUMAN REACTION IS...

...PANIC!

I WHO CAN CRAFT **DREAMS** CAN ALSO CREATE--

...**NIGHTMARES!**

GOLDEN MAN SAID HE WANTED TO BE **NICE** TO HULK LAST TIME THEY MET! GOLDEN MAN GAVE HULK A WORLD LIKE HEAVEN WHERE ALL HULK'S FRIENDS WERE ALIVE AND WELL!*

BUT IT WAS ALL A **LIE!** WORLD **WASN'T** LIKE HEAVEN!

WORLD WAS FILLED WITH ENEMIES-- ENEMIES LIKE **THOSE!**

*GLORIAN'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE GREEN GOLIATH WAS CHRONICLED IN **HULK** #190-191--AL.

HULK WILL **SMASH** ENEMIES-- THEN HULK WILL SMASH **GLORIAN!**

BUT THE HULK'S "ENEMIES" HAVE BEEN BORROWED FROM HIS NIGHTMARES BY GLORIAN THE DREAM-WEAVER. IN REALITY, THEY ARE THE BUTCHER, THE BAKER, THE CANDLE-STICK MAKER... IN SHORT, THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF **DUSTBOWL!**

IF THE HULK LASHES OUT AT HIS NIGHTMARES, THE RESULT WILL BE **MURDER!**

13

SO WHY DON'T THESE PEOPLE TURN TAIL AND RUN FOR THEIR LIVES, YOU ASK ?

QUITE SIMPLY, BECAUSE GLORIAN'S MANIPULATION HAS TURNED THEIR DREAMS INTO NIGHTMARES, AS WELL !

THAT'S ME! THE OLD ME !

A-AND ME, TOO !

NOT AS' I WANT TO BE-- BUT AS I AM !

I-IT'S NOT FAIR !

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO BEING A NO-ACCOUNT LAWMAN IN A TOWN WITHOUT CRIME !

A-AND I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT !

TO SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN STAND STRAIGHT !

NOR I TO THAT POCK-MARKED, PIMPLY EXCUSE FOR A HUMAN BEING !

NOR I TO AN ARTHRITIC, SENILE OLD SOT WHO'S USELESS TO HIMSELF AN' EVERYBODY ELSE !

YOU'VE COME TO TAKE OUR DREAMS AWAY !

WE WON'T LET YOU !

WE'LL KILL YOU FIRST !

REMEMBER: THE HULK THINKS HE IS FACING THE ABOMINATION, THE BI-BEAST, THE RHINO, HAMMER AND ANVIL, THE GREMLIN, MOONSTONE AND THE LEADER !

THE WAY HE SEES IT, THEY MAY JUST HAVE A CHANCE !

14

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE THE TOWN OF DUST-BOWL FROM THE RAVAGES OF A SOMNAMBULANT HULK IS IF BOTH CAN BE SHAKEN FROM THEIR WAKING DREAMS.

ENTER: ONE SLIGHTLY-WINDED WALKING ALARM CLOCK!..

...RICK JONES!

TH-THERE'S ⋮PUFF!⋮ OUR CAR! BUT WHERE ⋮PUFF! PUFF!⋮ IS BETTY?

AND ⋮HUFF-PUFF!⋮ THE HULK?!

OH, NO! THE SOUND OF FIGHTING -- OF PEOPLE SCREAMING FROM THAT DRIVE-IN MOVIE!

MOTEL

SUNSET DRIVE-IN

YES, THE SOUNDS OF AN EXAMINATION IN PROGRESS -- OF MY STUDENT ON THE VERGE OF FAILURE!

HUH? WHO--?!

OH, MY GOSH!

I AM HE WHO IS CALLED... THE SHAPER OF WORLDS!

IT IS MY GIFT AND MY CURSE TO HAVE UNPARALLED POWER TO MOLD, TO BUILD... YET TO BE FOREVER DENIED THE SPARK OF IMAGINATION, THE TALENT OF CREATIVITY TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY THOSE WITH THE ABILITY TO DREAM!

THAT IS WHY I TOOK ANOTHER -- SHAPED HIM INTO A DREAMER -- AND GROOMED HIM TO SUCCEED ME!

THIS TEST WAS TO HAVE BEEN HIS GRADUATION -- FROM DREAMER TO A FULL-FLEDGED SHAPER OF WORLDS! NOW HE FALTERS AS DREAMS COLLIDE WITH NIGHTMARES --

--AND IT IS ALL THE FAULT OF THAT GROTESQUE, GAMMA-SPAWNED MONSTER OF YOURS!

THE HULK?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO'S THIS PUPIL OF YOURS, AND WHAT'S HE DOING TO --

--THE HULK?!!

A BETTER QUESTION MIGHT BE...

...WHAT IS THE HULK ABOUT TO DO TO THE DREAMER?!

15

HULK HAS SMASHED YOUR NIGHTMARES, DREAMER! NOW HULK WILL SMASH *YOU!*

WAIT! WHAT DOES GOLDEN MAN DO TO *BETTY?!?*

HE TURNS HER INTO BIRD-MONSTER HULK HAS FOUGHT BEFORE --INTO *HARPY!*

WHAT DOES THE HULK *MEAN*, GLORIAN? WHAT ARE YOU MAKING HIM "*SEE*"?

I-I'VE LOST CONTROL OVER THE *SHAPE* OF THE DREAMS THE HULK'S HAVING!

YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T *STOP* THIS?!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME SAY *I'VE LOST CONTROL?!!*

HULK IS COMING FOR YOU, GOLDEN MAN! NOTHING YOU SEND AT HULK WILL STOP HULK!

THRAM!!

TH-THOSE ARE INNOCENT TOWNSPEOPLE THE HULK IS THRASHING DOWN THERE!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT-- YOUR DOING! YOU COME RIDING DOWN TO EARTH ON A RAINBOW OFFERING US HAPPINESS, OFFERING US DREAMS--

--AND THEN, YOU TURN OUR *DREAMS* TO *NIGHTMARES!*

NO WONDER THE HULK *HATES* YOU! NO WONDER...!

HULK! WH-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* TO ME?!

HARPY IS HULK'S ENEMY!

HULK WILL SMASH HARPY, SMASH GOLDEN MAN, AND THEN HULK WILL FIND THE *REAL* BETTY!

B-BUT I *AM* THE REAL BETTY!

THE *HULK* CAN'T SEE THAT! TO HIM, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER OF HIS ENDLESS LIST OF ENEMIES!

OH, SHAPER --WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

16

AS IF IN RESPONSE TO GLORIAN'S AGONIZED PLAINT, **THE SHAPER OF WORLDS** MATERIALIZES OUT OF THIN AIR TO CATCH THE HURTLING BETTY ROSS!

YOU HAVE OVEREXTENDED YOURSELF, MY PUPIL! THE *TEST*, I FEAR, IS OVER!

BETTY ?! IS SHE--?!?

YOUR FRIEND IS UNHARMED, EARTH YOUTH! SHE IS STRONG OF WILL INDEED, TO HAVE SO SOON BROKEN FREE OF THE DREAMER'S SPELL!

OH, RICK, DID *YOU* SEND THE HULK AFTER ME ?

YOU BET! AND, HAVING SEEN WHAT I'VE SEEN--

--I'M *GLAD* I DID!

TALK! TALK! *TALK!* HUMANS KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON, BUT NO ONE BOTHERS TO TELL *HULK!*

BETTY IS NO LONGER HARPY -- AND HULK'S ENEMIES BEGIN TO CHANGB BACK INTO PUNY HUMANS!

HULK DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IS *REAL!*

REALITY IS THE MOST DIFFICULT GIFT A *SHAPER* MAY GIVE, HULK, FOR HE WOULD *PREFER* TO SEE THOSE WHOM HE TOUCHES HAPPY IN THEIR *ILLUSIONS!*

YOU, HOWEVER, HAVE NEVER BEEN *CONTENT* WITH THAT!

A SINGLE SEARING BOLT OF PUREST THOUGHT...

...AND THE DREAMS BROUGHT FORTH BY GLORIAN'S TOUCH ARE SOON DISPELLED!

OH, HULK-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HULK FEELS FINE! HULK JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND!

I THINK *I'M* BEGINNING TO, BIG BUDDY!

SHAPER! THIS GOLDEN GUY BEHIND ME --IS HE THE *PUPIL* YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?

17

YES! HE IS *GLORIAN THE DREAMER*-- HE WHOSE DREAMS GIVE *SHAPE* TO THE MYRIAD WORLDS I LIVE TO CREATE! 'TIS HE WHO STANDS TO INHERIT MY POWER--

--ONCE HE DEMONSTRATES THE ABILITY TO USE IT *WISELY!*

YOU REMARK ABOUT HIS *GOLDEN FLESH*, AND YET... HE IS AS *HUMAN* AS YOURSELVES!

"INDEED, ONCE HE EVEN HAD A NAME OTHER THAN *GLORIAN!*

"ONCE HE WAS *THOMAS GIDEON*, A YOUTH WHO, LIKE A MODERN-DAY ICARUS...

"... FLEW TOO CLOSE TO A MAN-MADE *SUN!*

" 'TWAS HIS *FATHER'S* IDEA--*GREGORY GIDEON'S*-- TO BASK IN RELEASED RADIATION IN THE HOPES OF RECEIVING GREAT POWERS, AS OTHER EARTH BEINGS HAD BEFORE! 'TWAS A PLAN FLAWED FROM THE START!

"BOTH GIDEONS DEVELOPED ONLY *RADIATION POISONING*...

AN AFFLICTION WHICH WOULD HAVE KILLED THE FATHER HAD THE BESTIAL *DRAGON MAN* NOT DONE IT FIRST!

"YET, STILL WAS THE GENTLE *THOMAS GIDEON* DYING! THE FAR-FAMED *FANTASTIC FOUR* SWORE TO SEEK A CURE...

"... WHEN I OFFERED TO BOTH SAVE THE LAD'S LIFE AND TO USE HIS LOFTY *DREAMS* AS THE BASIS OF A NEW AGE OF *WORLD-CREATION!*

THE BOY WILL BE *CURED* OF HIS DISEASE--

--AND, IN RETURN, HIS *DREAMS* SHALL INSPIRE THE MYRIAD WORLDS WHICH I WILL *SHAPE!*

"SO I TOOK THOMAS GIDEON AWAY AND USED HIS DREAMS TO RECREATE HIS PHYSICAL FORM!"

THE RADIATION THE BOY ABSORBED IS TURNING HIS SKIN *GOLDEN!* 'TIS A GLORIOUS SIGHT!

THUS, I SHALL RENAME HIM... *GLORIAN!**

*AND THERE, AFTER MANY MOONS, YOU HAVE THE DENOUEMENT TO EVENTS BEGUN IN *FANTASTIC FOUR* #135-137--ASSIDUOUS AL.

18

GLORIAN'S *DREAMS* LED ME TO CREATE WORLD AFTER WORLD OF SCINTILLATING *BEAUTY!*

LIKE *GEMS*, NEW WORLDS SPARKLED IN THE HEAVENS! THOSE WHO POPULATED THESE WONDROUS WORLDS WERE GRATEFUL -- SO GRATEFUL THAT THEY NEVER THOUGHT TO QUESTION WHETHER THEY LIVED IN *REALITY* OR *ILLUSION!* THEN ONE DAY MY PUPIL MADE AN ASTONISHING REQUEST...

"SHAPER," I SAID, "MAY I ONE DAY BE A *SHAPER*, TOO?"

"WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO BE?" I ASKED. "IS OUR SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP NOT ENOUGH?"

"ARE YOU NOT CONTENT WITH THE *SHAPE* I GIVE YOUR *DREAMS*?"

"MOST CONTENT, SHAPER," I ANSWERED. "BUT YOU ARE NOT IMMORTAL! ONE DAY, YOU, TOO, WILL PASS AWAY!"

AYE, I HAD THOUGHT ON THAT DAY MYSELF! WHO WOULD REPLACE ME WHEN I WAS GONE? WHO WOULD SHAPE WORLDS WITH A SURE AND GENTLE TOUCH? WHO WOULD GRASP HOLD OF THE ROUGH WARP OF REALITY AND REWEAVE IT INTO *DREAMS*?

WHO ELSE BUT MY OWN CREATION, MY PUPIL -- *GLORIAN*... MY *SON*?!

SO YOU TAUGHT HIM HOW TO *SHAPE* THE *DREAMS* HE DREAMED, AND THEN SET HIM LOOSE ON EARTH!

YOU USED AN ENTIRE TOWN TO CONDUCT A *TEST*?!

YES! BUT THE ARRIVAL OF THE HULK WAS UNFORSEEN, AND MY STUDENT'S PANIC CAUSED THE DREAM HE SHAPED TO GO AWRY!

ALL IS RESTORED NOW! ALL IS AGAIN THE WAY IT WAS!

WE-- WE'RE OURSELVES *AGAIN*!

OUR-- *OUR-SELVES*!

THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF DUST-BOWL STARE AT EACH OTHER IN DISBELIEF. ONE MOMENT THEY'D HAD ALL THEY'D EVER WANTED. THE NEXT THEY ARE LEFT WITH ALL THEY'VE EVER KNOWN.

THE PATHOS OF IT IS MORE THAN RICK JONES CAN BEAR!

GLORIAN GIVETH AND THE *SHAPER* TAKETH AWAY, HUH?

19

WHERE DO YOU GUYS GET OFF COMING DOWN HERE AND USING OUR PLANET AS YOUR PERSONAL *PLAYGROUND*!?! WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO MESS WITH PEOPLE'S HOPES AND DREAMS AND FANTASIES--AND THEN WALK OFF AND LEAVE 'EM *NOTHING*?!?

RICK IS ANGRY?

YOU *BET* I'M ANGRY, HULK--ANGRY AT *GLORIAN* FOR GIVING THESE PEOPLE A TASTE OF GLORY--ANGRY AT THE *SHAPER* FOR TAKING IT AWAY!

ANGRY BECAUSE EVERYONE WOULD HAVE BEEN *HAPPIER* IF THEY'D STAYED THE HECK AWAY!

RICK, YOUR ANGER IS WHIPPING THE HULK INTO A FRENZY! STOP--!!

WHY SHOULD RICK STOP? RICK IS *RIGHT*!

WHITE-FACE AND GOLDEN MAN MADE EVERYONE UNHAPPY!

NOW HULK WILL MAKE *THEM* UNHAPPY, TOO!

'TIS TIME WE LEFT THIS WORLD WHICH WANTS US NOT, MY PUPIL!

IS--IS THERE ANY WORLD THAT *WOULD* HAVE US, SHAPER--

--IF THEY *KNEW*?

"KNEW *WHAT*?" THE *SHAPER* ASKS.

"KNEW THAT WHAT WE PEDDLE THEM IS *DREAMS*--*ILLUSIONS*--*FANTASIES*--NO MORE REAL THAN THE SHADOWS OF LIGHT," *GLORIAN* ANSWERS...

BUTHROW!

"... CAST ON AN EARTHLY *MOVIE SCREEN*?"

PHROOM!

RRARRRHH!

20

THAT'S IT, HULK! RAGE! SCREAM! GET ANGRY! NO ONE HAS MORE OF A RIGHT THAN YOU!

HULK WILL SCREAM! HULK WILL RAGE! HULK HAS THE RIGHT!!

RICK, IN HEAVEN'S NAME, WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? WE DON'T WANT TO ENRAGE THE HULK! WE WANT HIM CALM--!

SO HE'LL REVERT TO BRUCE BANNER? COULD THE DOC HAVE SAVED YOU FROM GLORIAN, BETTY? COULD THE DOC HAVE CHASED OFF THE SHAPER?!?

B-BUT LOOK AT WHAT THE HULK'S RAGE IS DOING TO--

--THE TOWNSPEOPLE!

YOU SEE TERROR ON THEIR FACES, RICK JONES-- SHEER, UNADULTERATED TERROR --AND YOU KNOW IT IS OF YOUR MAKING!

IT... EXCITES YOU, DOESN'T IT, TO BE ABLE TO COMMAND A BEING CAPABLE OF INSTILLING SO MUCH FEAR IN OTHERS?

TAKE A LOOK AT 'EM, HULK! WHAT ARE THEY?

PUNY HUMANS!

RIGHT! AND WHAT DO "PUNY HUMAN" ALWAYS DO TO YOU?

HATE HULK! HOUND HULK! HUNT HULK!

YOU GONNA LET 'EM DO IT ANY-MORE, GREEN-SKIN?

NO! NO MORE! HULK IS GOING TO START DOING TO PUNY HUMANS WHAT PUNY HUMANS DO TO HIM!

THE "PUNY HUMANS" RUN FOR THEIR LIVES, THEN...

...SEEKING SANCTUARY BEHIND THE DINGY DOORS OF DUSTBOWL!

LEAVING BETTY ROSS TO WONDER...

I-I CAME TO THE DESERT TO HELP BRUCE BANNER CONTROL THE HULK'S BERSERKER RAGES!

BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW ABOUT... RICK'S?!?

THAT IS A QUESTION WE WILL ALL PONDER...

NEXT ISSUE: THEY CALL THE WIND.. PARIAH!

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
60¢
268
FEB
02456

WIN A Columbia® TEN-SPEED FORMULA 10™ RACER!
DETAILS INSIDE

©1981 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

PARIAH!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

BILL MANTO STORY / SAL BUSCEMA ART / SHELLY LEFERMAN, LETTERS BOB SHAREN, COLORS / AL MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER BOSS

THE GUNFIGHTER CAME TO THE MINING TOWN OF WHISPERING WELLS ONE FINE DAY IN 1871...
HE'D HEARD ABOUT AN UNUSUAL STRIKE IN AN ANCIENT INDIAN BURIAL GROUND. "RICHER THAN GOLD," THE RUMORS SAID.
THE GUNFIGHTER LIKED PLACING HIMSELF IN THE PROXIMITY OF RICHES. IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, SOME OF IT USUALLY WOUND UP ACCRUING TO HIM.
HOWEVER, BY THE TIME PARIAH CAME TO WHISPERING WELLS, THE ONLY BOUNTY HE WAS LIKELY TO SHARE WOULD BE THE TOWN'S HARVEST OF DEATH.
LOOKS LIKE THE STORIES WE HEARD 'BOUT WHISPERIN' WELLS WERE A MITE OFF, DEMON.
STEADY, GIRL! STEADY! AIN'T NUTHIN' TO BE FEARED FROM A GHOST TOWN!
THE GUNFIGHTER HAD MUCH TO LEARN.
SALOON

THE WINDS BLEW HOT AND HARSH, AS THE GUNFIGHTER DISMOUNTED, DRIVING THE DESERT DUST STINGINGLY, SCRAPINGLY AGAINST HIM.

IT WAS UNCOMFORTABLE, THAT DUST, BUT HARDLY ENOUGH TO KILL A MAN... LET ALONE AN ENTIRE TOWN.

BUT WHAT **COULD** KILL AN ENTIRE TOWN?

THE GUNFIGHTER HAD NEVER BEEN A RELIGIOUS MAN...

DEAR LORD IN HEAVEN!

...BUT SUCH A **SIGHT** COULD MOVE THE MOST HARDENED HEART TO PRAYER.

THE MOMENT OF PIOUS PITY FADED, HOWEVER, AS SOON AS THE GUNFIGHTER CAUGHT SIGHT OF A GOLDEN GLEAM COMING FROM THE SKELETAL HAND OF...

A PROSPECTOR, JUDGIN' BY HIS BOOTS, BLEW HIS OWN BRAINS OUT.

BUT, IN HIS HAND... MAYBE THERE **WAS** SOME TRUTH TO THOSE RUMORS, AFTER ALL!

2

THE GUNFIGHTER COULD EASILY HAVE PRIED THE GLISTENING NUGGET FROM THE OSSIFIED HAND...

SKRAK!

...BUT HE PREFERRED NOT TO COME INTO SUCH CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE DEAD.

BIGGEST NUGGET I'VE EVER--! SAY! THIS AIN'T **GOLD!**

AN' IT AIN'T LIKE ANY METAL I'VE EVER KNOWED, THE WAY IT'S STARTED TA TINGLE SOON AS I TOUCHED IT!

AN' NOW IT--IT'S **SCREAMIN'** INSIDE MY HEAD--HOWLIN' DOWN THE WIND AN' DUST ALL AROUND ME!

I-I GOTTA GET **AWAY** FROM IT--BUT THE CURSED ROCK WON'T LET ME **GO!**

AS HE BOLTED FROM THE SALOON, THE GUNFIGHTER BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND: THE TOWN OF WHISPERING WELLS HAD SOUGHT RICHES...IN THE ROBBING OF THE DEAD.

THAT DESECRATION HAD COST THE TOWNSPEOPLE THEIR SOULS...

...AND, RATHER THAN LIVE CUT OFF FROM THEIR REDEEMER, THE DOOMED FOLK OF WHISPERING WELLS TOOK THEIR OWN LIVES.

3

THE GUNFIGHTER LACKED A SOUL TO START WITH, SO THE SPIRITS IN THE STONE CHOSE A DIFFERENT FATE FOR HIM. HE BECAME THE VOICE OF THEIR VENGEANCE AGAINST THE LIVING--A DUST-CLOAKED OUTCAST--AN UNCANNY UNTOUCHABLE--A FOUL WHISPER ON THE WIND...

AND THEY CALLED THE WIND PARIAH!

AARRGH!

BENEATH THAT SAME SOUTHWESTERN DESERT, 100-SOME ODD YEARS LATER...

THE *GAMMA RAYS* WE'RE BOMBARDING THE *HULK* WITH ARE CAUSING HIM TO SCREAM IN *PAIN*, BETTY!

BRUCE BANNER DESIGNED THE GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR TO ENABLE HIM TO CONTROL HIS CHANGES FROM MAN TO MONSTER, RICK! HE WOULDN'T CAUSE HIMSELF TO *SUFFER* UNLESS THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY.

'SCUSE ME FOR MAKIN' THIS SITUATION SOUND MORE SCHIZOPHRENIC THAN IT ALREADY IS--BUT THE DOC *HATES* THE HULK! HE'D DO ANYTHING TO DESTROY HIS GREAT GREEN ALTER-EGO--NO MATTER WHAT PRICE HE'D HAVETA PAY!

4

IT'S BRUCE'S DECISION TO MAKE, RICK!

YEAH--BUT DON'T FORGET THAT, DESPITE WHAT I OWE DOC BANNER FOR SAVIN' MY NECK YEARS BACK--RICK JONES IS THE ***HULK'S*** PAL, TOO!

I DON'T WANNA SEE MY FAVORITE PHYSICIST ***OR*** MY BIG GREEN BUDDY HURT!

I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU EXPRESS SUCH CONCERN FOR THE ***HULK*** BEFORE, RICK.

KLIK

YOU MAY BE HIS ONLY MOURNER--WHEN I FINALLY DESTROY HIM!

BRUCE!

DOC! YOUR GIZMO WORKED!

YES. YOU CAN APPROACH ME. GAMMA RAYS LEAVE BEHIND NO HARMFUL RESIDUAL RADIATION.

I'VE OFTEN WONDERED ABOUT THAT, DOC.

ONE WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE A MASSIVE, ***DIRECT*** DOSE OF GAMMA RAYS TO BE AFFECTED BY THEM AS I WAS.

BUT IF YOUR GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR CAN CURE YOU, BRUCE...?

IT CAN'T BETTY.

THE GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR CAN ONLY TRIGGER THE CHANGE FROM THE HULK TO BRUCE BANNER, OR VICE VERSA. ITS EFFECTS ARE TEMPORARY--

--AND THE HULK MUST BE MANEUVERED ON TO THE STAGING PLATFORM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE CORRECT DOSAGE.

OL' GREENSKIN SEEMS WILLING TO DO WHATEVER BETTY AND I ASK OF HIM, DOC.

THAT'S GOOD, RICK--BETTY AND YOU ARE PROBABLY THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD THE HULK TRUSTS. UNFORTUNATELY, TO ALL OTHERS HE IS A RAGING MONSTER ON A PERPETUAL RAMPAGE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

HE MUST NEVER LEAVE MY HIDDEN LABORATORY HERE UNDER THE DESERT UNLESS A ***CURE*** FOR MY CONDITION--

--OR SOME ***OTHER*** MEANS OF ENDING THE MENACE OF THE HULK IS FOUND.

STILL, DOC, BETTY AN' ME HAVE GOTTEN THE HULK TO STAY CALM!

HE'S EVEN BEGUN TO ***UNDER-STAND--*** DIMLY--

--THAT YOU AND HE ARE ***ONE!***

THE HULK ISN'T THE MONSTER THE WORLD MAKES HIM OUT TO BE, DOC! YOU KNOW THAT. HE'S POWERFUL--THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH--BUT HE ONLY DESTROYS WHEN PEOPLE WON'T LEAVE HIM ALONE!

IF ONLY THE HULK'S POWER COULD BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL!

RICK, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WHAT IF, INSTEAD OF DESTROYING THE HULK FOR ALL TIME--

5

"--THE DOC INSTEAD BROUGHT THE CHANGE... AND THE HULK...UNDER THE CONTROL OF HIS OWN BRILLIANT MIND?

"CAN YOU IMAGINE THE GREAT GOOD SUCH A COMBINATION OF STRENGTH AND GENIUS COULD ACHIEVE?

THE HULK NOT ONLY SAVED THE BRIDGE, HE'S REBUILDING IT BETTER THAN BEFORE!

"INSTEAD OF CONSTANTLY BEING HUNTED AND HOUNDED BY THE MILITARY, A RATIONAL HULK COULD ADD HIS POWER TO THE DEFENSE OF OUR NATION!

"MAN, HE'D BE THE ULTIMATE SECRET WEAPON!

THIS IS ONE ALLY OF AMERICA THAT'S GOING TO STAY FREE FROM OPPRESSION!

THE HULK HAS BEEN UNLEASHED TO STOP OUR INVASION!

"OR IN SPACE EXPLORATION: THERE'S NOWHERE THE HULK COULDN'T GO TO ADD TO MAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE COSMOS!

"TALK ABOUT HAVING THE RIGHT STUFF!"

RICK, YOU MUST BE JOKING--!

HE'S NOT, BETTY--BUT LET ME ANSWER HIM.

RICK, I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING --YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOME WAY FOR THE PART OF ME THAT IS THE **HULK** TO **SURVIVE** THE CURE FOR WHICH I'M SEARCHING.

BUT I DON'T **WANT** TO BE THE HULK ANYMORE, RICK--NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!

"I WANT TO GET BACK TO THE WAY I WAS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT--A HIGHLY RESPECTED PHYSICIST ENGAGED IN IMPORTANT, IF SOMEWHAT ABSTRACT, RESEARCH.

"I'D LIKE A CHANCE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, RICK...TO LEAVE WORK AT FIVE AND ARRIVE HOME TO FIND MY WIFE AND CHILDREN WAITING TO WELCOME ME."

THE HULK--EVEN A HULK WHOM I COULD CALL FORTH AND DISMISS AT WILL--EVEN A HULK DOMINATED BY BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN--HAS NO PART IN THAT LIFE, RICK.

THE HULK **HAS** SHARED BRUCE'S BRAIN IN THE PAST, RICK! IT'S NEVER LASTED!

AND THEN THERE ARE ALL THE HULK'S **ENEMIES** WHO WOULD NEVER STOP HOUNDING BRUCE AS LONG AS HIS OTHER HALF LIVES! SURELY YOU UNDERSTAND WHY HE WANTS TO BE RID OF THE MONSTER...FOREVER!

6

YEAH, I GUESS I **DO** UNDERSTAND THE DOC'S DESIRE TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE--AND I DIG THAT BETTY WANTS TO BE THE ONE TO SHARE IT WITH HIM!

BUT SOMEHOW IT DOESN'T SEEM **FAIR** TO THE HULK!

LIKE, OL' GREENSKIN DIDN'T **ASK** TO BE BORN!

HE WAS A CREATION OF DOC BANNER'S **GAMMA BOMB!**

SURE, THE DOC WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE BOMB'S RADIATION IF **I** HADN'T BEEN FOOLIN' AROUND OUT ON THE TEST SITE-- BUT I TRIED TO PAY HIM BACK BY STICKIN' WITH HIM WHENEVER HE BECAME THE HULK...

...UNTIL THE HULK GREW MORE AND MORE SAVAGE AN' FINALLY DROVE ME AWAY!

BUT I CAME BACK--NOT ONLY TO HELP THE DOC, BUT TO HELP THE HULK, TOO!

THE WAY I SEE IT, I KINDA OWE 'EM **BOTH!**

I MEAN, I HOPE THE DOC FINDS THE **CURE** HE'S SEARCHIN' FOR --AN' THE HAPPINESS THAT'LL COME WITH IT!

I ONLY WISH IT DIDN'T HAVETA MEAN ENDING THE HULK'S EXISTENCE--

--WITHOUT EVEN GIVING THE GREEN GALOOT A CHANCE TO SAY WHAT **HE** THINKS ABOUT THE DEAL!

HECK! TOO MUCH THINKIN'S MAKIN' ME MORBID!

I GOTTA CLEAR THE OLD COMPUTER!

AN' THE FASTEST WAY TO DO THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN TO HIT THE ROAD!

VRROOM

THE ANCIENT AUTOMOBILE RESPONDS WITH SILKEN SMOOTHNESS. EVEN AS BRUCE BANNER HAD WORKED ON HIS GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR, RICK JONES HAD OCCUPIED HIMSELF WITH SPARK PLUGS AND GASKETS...

...PLUNGING HIMSELF INTO MECHANICAL MAKEWORK IN AN EFFORT TO FORGET THE ENTERPRISE IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED.

BUT THERE ARE SOME MEMORIES WHICH THE THRUM OF A FINELY-TUNED MOTOR CAN NEVER ERASE.

7

THE KIND OF MEMORIES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE MAKING OF THIS UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL KNOWN AS **RICK JONES.**

HERE'S THE PUNK I TOLD YOU ABOUT, HEADMASTER!

TEMPEST TOWN HOME FOR TROUBLED TEENAGERS

RICHARD JONES, HMMM? ADMINISTRATOR MACON TELLS ME THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING THE OTHER YOUTHS IN OUR LITTLE COMMUNITY TO ACTS OF DISOBEDIENCE. IS THIS TRUE, RICHARD?

IF IT'S DISOBEDIENCE TO TELL 'EM TO PROTEST THE CRUMMY CONDITIONS IN THIS DUMP--THEN, YEAH, IT'S TRUE!

SEE? I TOLD YOU HE WAS INCORRIGIBLE!

YES, I DO SEE.

COME OFF IT, HEADMASTER! I'M WISE TO YOU! YOU GET THOUSANDS IN STATE SUBSIDIES TO RUN THIS PLACE--

--AN' SKIM THE CREAM WHILE GIVIN' THE KIDS IN HERE WATERED MILK!

YOUR CHARGE IS BASELESS, RICHARD, YET TYPICAL OF THE ANTISOCIAL TENDENCIES THAT SAW YOU ASSIGNED TO TEMPEST TOWN AFTER THE OTHER ORPHANAGES HAD GIVEN UP ON YOU.

MY DAD GAVE ME THAT GUITAR BEFORE HE DIED!

WHAT ARE YOU--

DOING, RICHARD? WHY, JUST SHOWING YOU THE PRICE SOCIETY EXACTS FOR DISOBEDIENCE SUCH AS YOURS.

SMASH!

NO!

YES, RICHARD. THE CONCEPT OF REBELLION AS AN OUTLET FOR ADOLESCENT EMOTIONS HAS ITS PLACE...

BUT NOT IN MY INSTITUTION!

DISCIPLINE THE BOY, MR. MACON.

YOU LAY THAT STICK ON ME, MACON, AND--

AND **WHAT**, PUNK?!

THUD THUD

TAKE CARE NOT TO **MARK** HIM PERMANENTLY, MR. MACON. WE ARE ANTICIPATING A STATE INSPECTION SHORTLY.

8

MEMORIES, THANKFULLY, HAVE A CURIOUS WAY OF SCREENING OUT THE PHYSICAL SENSATION OF PAIN WHILE LEAVING INTACT THE SOUNDS AND IMAGES THAT ACCOMPANIED IT.

THUS, RICK RECALLS THE BEATING WITHOUT ACTUALLY RELIVING IT...

...WHILE EXPERIENCING A SENSE OF SATISFACTION AT HIS RECOLLECTION OF THE SYMPATHY HE RECEIVED FROM HIS FELLOW ORPHANS.

AW, RICK, WHAT'D THEY DO TO YA?

AN' TO YER DAD'S GUITAR!

DON'T FRET, FELLAS! DAD ALWAYS SAID THAT **YOU CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC!**

A HARP!

MAN, THEY HEAR YOU PLAYIN' THAT AN' MACON'S GONNA COME BACK AND BUST YOUR LIP!

MACON MAY COME BACK, GREG --BUT OL' RICK JONES WON'T BE HERE WHEN HE DOES!

HOW YOU GONNA GET OUT, RICK? THOSE ARE **METAL BARS** OVER THE WINDOWS AN' DOORS!

AND THESE ARE METAL BEDSTEADS WE'VE BEEN SLEEPIN' ON, LUKE!

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE FOUND OUT IF METAL BENDS METAL!

SKRASH!

IT DOES.

WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOIN' ON IN--? **JONES!**

COME AN' GET ME, MACON!

NO, RICK-- DON'T FIGHT HIM!

SQUEEZE OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW! WE'LL KEEP HIM FROM REACHIN' YOU!

ANY PUNK WHO GETS IN MY WAY'LL HAVE HIS HEAD HANDED TO HIM!

9

LET 'IM GO, GUYS!

RICK JONES WANTS TO GET IN HIS LAST LICKS!

SWOK!

YAGGH!

AS THE ASTONISHED ADMINISTRATOR RETREATED FROM THE DORM, RICK JONES LEAPT FOR HIS LIFE.

I'M OUT--AND THE COAST IS CLEAR!

C'MON, KIDS--COME WITH ME!

NO--YOU GO, RICK! THERE'S NUTHIN' WAITIN' FOR US ON THE OUTSIDE!

HOW DO YOU KNOW, IF--?

ALL RIGHT, BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU GUYS! ONE DAY I'LL BE BACK--I SWEAR IT!

BUT THAT DAY NEVER CAME... AS RICK JONES MOVED FROM TOWN TO TOWN--FROM STATE TO STATE --FROM JOB TO JOB...

...NEVER REALLY FITTING IN --NEVER REALLY BELONGING --WONDERING IF HE EVER WOULD.

GAS

THE GREAT AMERICAN SOUTHWEST SEEMED TO DRAW HIM BACK, NO MATTER HOW FAR HE DRIFTED... AND IT WAS THERE, ONE FATEFUL DAY, THAT A GAUNTLET WAS TOSSED DOWN THAT WAS TO CHANGE RICK'S LIFE FOREVER.

I HEAR THE ARMY'S GONNA EXPLODE SOME NEW KINDA BOMB TODAY!

ANYBODY WANNA RIDE OUT AN' PLAY "CHICKEN" WITH THE BIG FIRE-CRACKER?

YOU NUTS?! THAT'S SUICIDE!

I AIN'T AFRAID OF NO BOMB!

YOU JONES? I'LL BET YOU AIN'T EVEN GOT THE NERVE TO SNEAK PAST THE GUARDS!

YOU'RE ON, MOTOR-MOUTH!

JOHNNY, WHAT IF HE GETS HURT...OR WORSE?

DON'T WORRY, JONES WON'T REALLY GET CLOSE TO THAT BOMB! BUT, HEY--EVEN IF HE DID...

...NO LOSS, RIGHT? THE DUDE'S A LONER WHO NO ONE'LL EVER MISS!

WHAT HAPPENED TO RICK THAT NIGHT IS PART OF HISTORY.

10

HE DID VENTURE ONTO THE TESTING SITE, WHERE HE WAS SPOTTED AND RESCUED BY DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, WHO, INADVERTANTLY EXPOSED TO THE GAMMA BOMB BLAST HIMSELF, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

HEY! A GHOST TOWN!

TONIGHT, RICK'S DIRECTIONLESS DRIVE ACROSS THE DESERT MAY EMBROIL HIM AND HIS FRIENDS IN A PREDICAMENT EVERY BIT AS PERILOUS.

I SHOULD TELL DOC BANNER AN' BETTY ABOUT THIS PLACE OVER THE C. B.!*

*CITIZEN'S BAND RADIO.--AL

NAH! WHY BOTHER 'EM? THE DOC'S PROBABLY HARD AT WORK ON A HULK-CURE--

--AN' I KNOW BETTY'D RATHER BE WITH HIM WHILE HE'S STILL BRUCE BANNER THAN POKE AROUND IN THESE RUINS!

THAT'S OKAY WITH ME! I DON'T MIND HAVIN' THE PLACE TO MYSELF.

AS I WALKED OUT ON THE STREETS OF LAREDO--

--AS I WALKED OUT IN LAREDO ONE DAY--

--I SPIED A YOUNG COWBOY ALL WRAPPED IN WHITE LINEN--

--ALL WRAPPED IN WHITE LINEN, AND COLD AS THE CLAY!

HMM! WIND'S WHIPPIN' UP THE DUST ALL AROUND ME!

FUNNY DUST-- BLACK AS ASH, AN' COLD AS THE GRAVE...!

AS COLD, MORTAL, AS YOUR POOR BONES SHALL SOON BE!

SHADES OF BUDDY HOLLY, WHO--?

I AM PARIAH--THE SPIRIT OF THE STONE-- AND I HAVE WAITED A CENTURY OR MORE TO BE FREE OF THIS TOWN...

...THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THE DEAD CAN BE FREE--BY FEEDING ON THE LIVING!

THE DUST SWIRLS DARKER IN THE TOWN OF WHISPERING WELLS.

11

MEANWHILE, IN A SECRET SUBTERRANEAN LABOR-ATORY...

THIS IS CERTAINLY A NEW ROLE FOR BETTY ROSS-- *HOMEMAKER!*

OF COURSE, *"HOME"* IS A BURIED BUNKER THAT I'VE MANAGED TO MAKE MARGINALLY LIVEABLE WHILE BRUCE CONCENTRATES ON HIS WORK.

STILL, I'D RATHER BE HERE--WITH THE MAN I LOVE-- THAN ANY-WHERE ELSE ON EARTH.

GAMMA RAYS

BETTY ROSS GLANCES TOWARDS THE BUNKER "LIBRARY"...

...AND, IN THE INTRODUCTION TO ONE WEIGHTY TOME, GAINS SOME INSIGHT INTO BRUCE BANNER.

"GAMMA RAYS-- IMMENSELY POWER-FUL, INVISIBLE WAVES OF LIGHT-- CARRY THE PROMISE OF BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MAN ...OR THE WORST."

BRUCE WROTE THAT -- JUST BEFORE THE ACCIDENT THAT TURNED HIM INTO THE *HULK!*

HE'S SO COMPLEX, THIS MAN I LOVE. HE WAS NEVER THE STEREOTYPICAL SCIENTIST--

--WHOM MY FATHER, *GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS*, ONCE DESCRIBED AS A *'GUTLESS MILKSOP'*.

WHAT BRUCE HAS GONE THROUGH SINCE BECOMING THE HULK HAS PROVEN HIS COURAGE. DESPITE THE HORROR OF THE HULK, HE'S NEVER LET HIMSELF BE DRAGGED DOWN INTO DESPAIR.

I LOVE YOU, ROBERT BRUCE BANNER.

I WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH YOU!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU AGAIN.

BETTY, I-I APPRECIATE THAT-- I DO-- BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN RECIPROCATE-- NO WAY I CAN PROFESS MY LOVE FOR YOU IN RETURN.

NOT NOW. NOT YET. LISTEN TO ME, BETTY...

I'M TWO BEINGS. ONE IS A *MAN* WHO NEVER KNOWS HOW LONG HE'LL REMAIN A MAN BEFORE THE *MONSTER* WITHIN HIM IS RELEASED AGAIN-TO TERRORIZE COUNTRIES, CONTINENTS, THE WORLD!

IN ADDITION, THE HULK BROUGHT ABOUT THE DEATH OF YOUR EX-HUSBAND, AND YOUR FATHER'S NERVOUS BREAKDOWN!

I CAN'T EVEN CONSIDER LOVING YOU UNLESS I CAN END THE MENACE OF MY OTHER SELF! THIS IS MY *LAST CHANCE*, BETTY-- SOMEHOW I SENSE THAT!

I MUST EITHER *CURE* MYSELF OF BECOMING THE HULK...OR FIND SOME WAY TO *DESTROY* HIM!

B-BUT, BRUCE, *CAN* YOU DE-STROY THE HULK WITH-OUT DE-STROYING... *YOUR-SELF?!*

NO.

AS THE IMPACT OF BRUCE BANNER'S ANSWER SINKS IN...

...THE TENSION BUILDING WITHIN THE BUNKER IS SUDDENLY DIVERTED BY THE STATIC HUM AND CRACKLE COMING OVER THE LAB'S RADIO RECEIVER.

NO! GET BACK! STAY AWAY FROM ME! YAAGHH!

THAT'S RICK'S VOICE COMING OVER THE CAR'S C.B. RADIO! HE'S IN TROUBLE!

BRUCE, WAIT! WE'LL--

WE'LL WHAT, BETTY? WE'RE MILES FROM NOWHERE--OUR ONLY SOURCE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS IN THE CAR WITH RICK! THERE'S NO ONE WE CAN CALL! NO ONE WE CAN ASK FOR HELP!

BUT, IF YOU GET EXCITED--

I AM EXCITED, BETTY! MY PULSE IS RACING! MY HEART IS POUNDING!

I'M TRANSFORMING INTO THE ONLY BEING ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH RIGHT NOW--

--WHO POSSESSES THE POWER TO SAVE RICK JONES!

I AM... THE HULK!

AS THE MIGHTIEST LEG MUSCLES OF ANY MORTAL HURL THE HULK HEAD-LONG INTO DANGER...

13

...BETTY ROSS UNDERSTANDS THAT, AS LONG AS THE HULK EXISTS, HER LOVE FOR BRUCE BANNER WILL BE AN ENDLESS EXERCISE IN DESPAIR.

BUT I *WILL* STAND BESIDE YOU UNTIL THIS NIGHTMARE IS PAST, MY DARLING BRUCE!

I WILL!

ONLY... I PRAY THAT NEITHER OF US MUST WAIT... FOREVER!

IF THERE IS A HEAVEN WATCHING OVER THE INCREDIBLE HULK, ITS INTENTIONS ARE NOT APPARENT..

...AS THE GREAT GREEN GOLIATH LEAPS LEAGUES OVER THE MOONLIT DESERT...

...TO WARDS A DATE WITH DESTINY IN THE TOWN OF *WHISPERING WELLS*.

THERE IS RICK'S CAR!

HULK REMEMBERS THAT RICK IS IN TROUBLE! RICK IS HULK'S FRIEND--

THROOM

--AND HULK HAS COME TO HELP HIS FRIEND!

BLACK DUST RISES IN A STYGIAN SWIRL...

14

...BUT THE HULK PAYS LITTLE HEED. AFTER ALL, HOW CAN DUST HARM HIM?

RICK! HULK IS HERE! HULK HAS COME!

H-HULK! N-NO! GO... BACK...BIG BUDDY... WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

N-NO ONE ...CAN STOP PARIAH!

WHAT HAS SKELETON-MAN DONE TO RICK? WHY DOES RICK LOOK... OLD?!

PARIAH'S...DRAINING ...THE LIFE...OUTTA ME, HULK! SAYS...HE NEEDS...LIFE-ENERGY ...TO ESCAPE THIS TOWN!

DIDN'T MEAN... TO CALL FOR... HELP--

--TO DELIVER... ANYONE ELSE...TO PARIAH!

15

IT IS NOT I WHO FEEDS ON YOUR LIFE-ENERGIES, MORTAL--BUT THE SPIRITS IN THE STONE!

I AM MERELY THEIR SERVANT--AND THEIR MEANS OF MOBILITY...

...AS WAS THE PROSPECTOR WHO DUG INTO A SACRED INDIAN BURIAL PLACE--

--ONLY TO BE SEIZED BY THE SPIRITS IN THE STONE...

...AND ORDERED TO BEAR THEM TO THE TOWN OF WHISPERING WELLS.

THE TOWNSPEOPLE COULD HAVE FLED, BUT GREED DREW THEM TO-WARDS THE STONE... AND THE STONE FED!

BUT THE PROSPECTOR FOUGHT THE HORROR THAT WANTED HIM TO CARRY IT TO THE WORLD BEYOND... AND WON!

THE INSATIABLE SPIRITS HAD NO WAY OF LEAVING THE TOWN!

NOT EVEN WHEN MY GREED BROUGHT ME TO THEM!

16

MY LIFE-ENERGIES MERELY SUFFICED TO KEEP THE SPIRITS ALIVE! THEY NEEDED MORE IF THEY WERE EVER TO ESCAPE WHISPERING WELLS!

THEY NEED POWER SUCH AS THEY SENSE IN YOU!

SKELETON-MAN WANTS TO DO TO HULK WHAT SKELETON-MAN HAS ALREADY DONE TO RICK? SKELETON-MAN IS CRAZY!

HULK WILL GRIND SKELETON-MAN TO POWDER-- THEN RICK WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

HULK IS NOT SCARED OF SKELETON-MAN'S SHINY STONE!

YOU SHOULD BE, MORTAL, FOR THE SPIRITS WILL MAKE YOU USE YOUR POWER-- AND THEN DRAIN YOU DRY!

A BEAM OF--SOMETHING--SHOOTS FROM PARIAH'S SPIRIT-STONE...

...AND THE HULK FINDS HIMSELF IN THE CENTER OF A SWIRL OF BITING, ACRID DUST THAT BLINDS HIS EYES AND BURNS HIS THROAT TO CHOKING.

RAARRGHH!

L-LEAP, HULK-- LEAP AWAY... FROM HERE! SAVE...YOURSELF! L-LET ME... BE PARIAH'S ONLY VICTIM!

RICK DID NOT RUN OUT ON HULK WHEN HULK NEEDED A FRIEND!

17

HULK WILL NOT RUN OUT ON RICK NOW!

A HANDCLAP LIKE A SONIC BOOM...

KAROOM!

...DRIVES THE EBON ASH BACK AT THE SKELETAL HORSEMAN.

THE SPIRITS IN THE STONE SCREAM IN ANTICIPATION.

YOUR LIFE-ENERGIES WILL ENABLE THE SPIRITS TO TRAVERSE THE WIDE WORLD!

SPIRITS TOOK SKELETON-MAN BECAUSE SKELETON-MAN TRIED TO TAKE STONE!

BUT HULK HAS NO USE FOR STONE--

--EXCEPT TO SMASH IT AND SEND SKELETON-MAN AWAY!

SMASH THE SPIRIT-STONE? HOW CAN YOU CRUSH THE FORCE OF ITS HATE--

--WHEN IT IS YOUR VERY POWER THAT GIVES IT LIFE!

D-DON'T YOU... FEEL YOURSELF ...WEAKENING, HULK? IT'S PARIAH... AND THE STONE!

THEY'RE...DRAINING YOUR... ***POWER***, GREENSKIN! SOON YOU'LL BE...TOO TIRED... TO FIGHT BACK!

18

INDEED, AS THE SPIRITS IN THE STONE SAP YOU OF YOUR INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, YOU WILL SOON FIND, MONSTER, THAT YOU ARE TOO TIRED TO DO ANYTHING EXCEPT LAY DOWN AND **DIE!**

HULK DIE? HULK DOES NOT WANT TO DIE!

BUT SOMETHING HAPPENS AS THE HULK'S LIFE-ENERGIES ARE SIPHONED AWAY BY THE SPIRITS IN THE STONE.

ANOTHER VOICE CONTRADICTS THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH.

YES--DIE, HULK! DIE!

BANNER? BANNER WANTS HULK DEAD?

DIE, DAMN YOU, MONSTER! LET GO AND LEAVE ME IN PEACE!

BUT HULK *IS* BANNER! RICK SAID SO!

IF HULK DIES--

--I DIE!

MAYBE NOT! BY DRAINING THE HULK'S GAMMA IRRADIATED LIFE-FORCE OUT OF ME, PARIAH JUST MIGHT ***CURE ME*** FOREVER!

BUT THEN, WITH THE HULK'S POWER IN HIS POSSESSION, HE'D BE FREE TO ROAM THE WORLD FEEDING ON OTHERS--UNBEATABLE, UNSTOPPABLE!

BUT YOU'D... BE ***FREE***... OF THE HULK, DOC!

THAT'S... WHAT YOU... WANT... ISN'T IT?

19

WHAT'S THE WORLD... EVER DONE FOR YOU ...EXCEPT HUNT... AND HOUND YOU!

TAKE THE CURE, DOC!

LET THE WORLD...ROT!

AND LET PARIAH DESTROY EVERY-THING I HOPE TO ONE DAY BE A PART OF AGAIN? NO!

NO!!

NO!!

SKELETON-MAN WILL NOT HAVE RICK-- SKELETON-MAN WILL NOT HAVE HULK--AND SKELETON-MAN WILL NOT HAVE WORLD!

IN A FIT OF MINDLESS RAGE YOU THROW OFF THE DESIRES OF THE SPIRITS IN THE STONE?!?

HULK IS SICK OF HEARING ABOUT STONE! HULK IS SICK OF HEARING ABOUT SPIRITS!

HULK WILL CRUSH STONE! THEN LET SPIRITS FIND SOME-WHERE ELSE TO LIVE!

SKRAK!

AS THE SPIRIT-STONE IS PULVERIZED TO POWDER, SO TOO IS PARIAH'S SKELETAL HAND.

20

NOT THAT IT MUCH MATTERS, FOR, WHATEVER MOTIVATING FORCE ANIMATED THE HUNDRED YEAR OLD GUNFIGHTER'S BONES, TAKES PARIAH'S SPIRIT WITH IT AS IT FLEES INTO THE ETHER.

INDEED, IT TAKES THE ENTIRE TOWN OF WHISPERING WELLS -- DESECRATED, DEFILED, DEPOPULATED AND PERFIDIOUSLY POLLUTED BY ITS PRESENCE FOR OVER A CENTURY--WHILE LEAVING ALL OTHERS AS THEY WERE BEFORE.

SALOON

DOC BANNER COULD'VE CHUCKED BEIN' THE HULK! HE HAD THE CHANCE!

BUT HE SAW THE KIND OF *GOOD* ONLY *YOU* CAN DO!

MAYBE NOW HE'LL LOOK FOR A CURE, HULK, THAT'LL LET YOU LIVE, TOO!

PERHAPS.

NEXT MONTH: FROM BEYOND THE FAR BEYOND THEY COME... THE HULK-HUNTERS!

60¢ | 269 MAR 02456

©1981 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TM

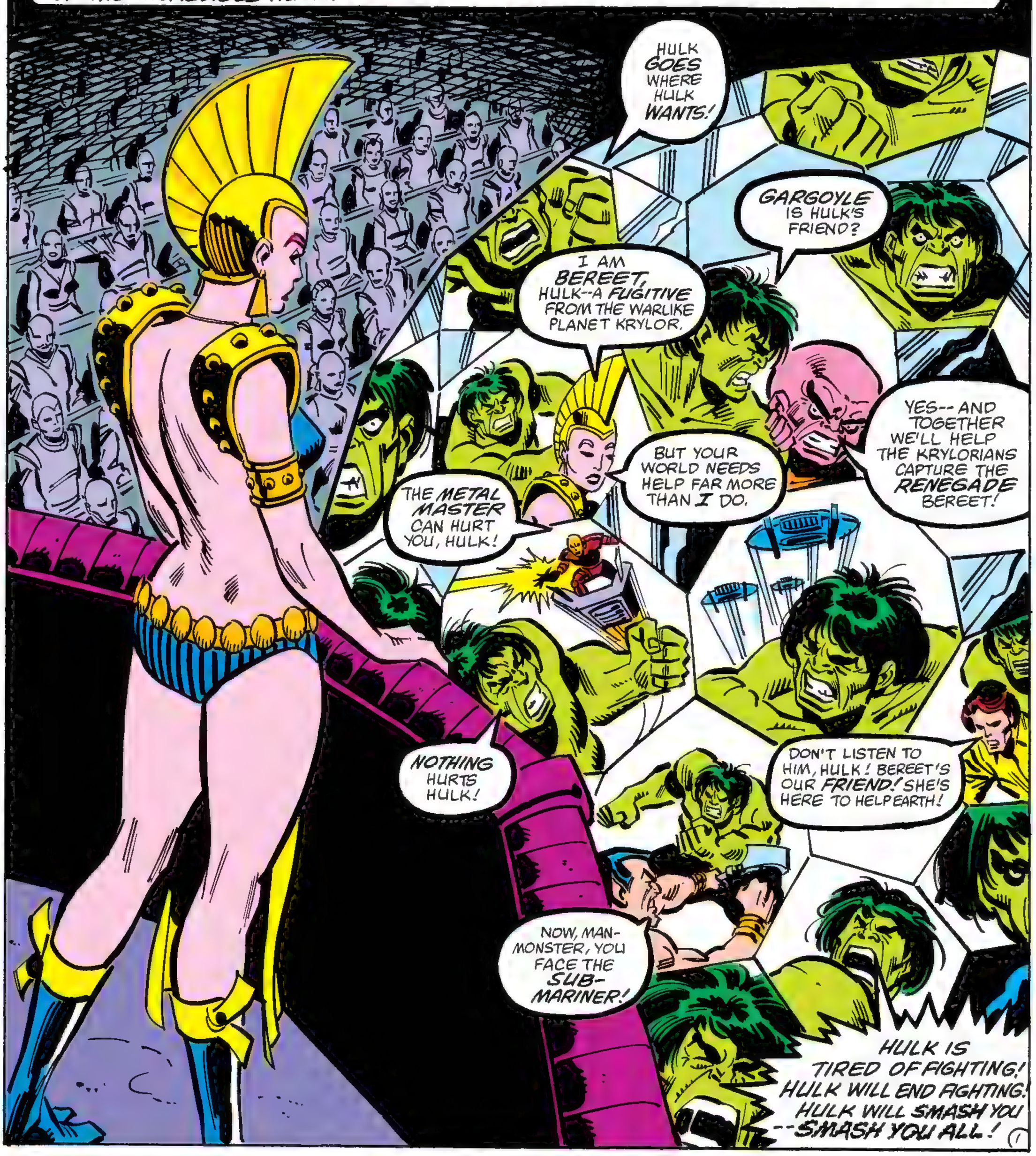
THE HULK HUNTERS!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

BILL MANTLO WRITER | SAL BUSCEMA ARTIST | RICK PARKER LETTERER | BOB SHAREN COLORIST | ALLEN MILGROM EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NOT LONG AGO, IN A GALAXY PRETTY CLOSE TO OUR OWN, **BEREET,** TECHNO-ARTIST SUPREME OF THE PLANET KRYLOR, STOOD OBSERVING THE AUDIENCE REACTION TO THE FIRST RETROSPECTIVE OF HER MAGNUM OPUS --ENTITLED (TRANSLATED FROM THE KRYLORIAN, OF COURSE)... **THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK.**


HULK GOES WHERE HULK WANTS!
GARGOYLE IS HULK'S FRIEND?
I AM BEREET, HULK--A FUGITIVE FROM THE WARLIKE PLANET KRYLOR.
YES-- AND TOGETHER WE'LL HELP THE KRYLORIANS CAPTURE THE RENEGADE BEREET!
BUT YOUR WORLD NEEDS HELP FAR MORE THAN I DO.
THE METAL MASTER CAN HURT YOU, HULK!
NOTHING HURTS HULK!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, HULK! BEREET'S OUR FRIEND! SHE'S HERE TO HELP EARTH!
NOW, MAN-MONSTER, YOU FACE THE SUB-MARINER!
HULK IS TIRED OF FIGHTING! HULK WILL END FIGHTING! HULK WILL SMASH YOU --SMASH YOU ALL!

THE KRYLORIAN AUDIENCE SAT ENTHRALLED, EXPERIENCING (IN THE FULLEST SENSE OF THAT WORD) EVERY EXCITING MOMENT OF BEREET'S TALE OF **BEAUTY** ALLIED WITH **BRUTE** IN DEFENSE OF A WORLD FALLEN PREY TO A MORE POWERFUL PREDATOR... THE KRYLORIANS THEMSELVES.

THEY DID NOT MIND THAT BEREET DEPICTED THEM AS UGLY, MIS-SHAPEN CONQUERORS.

AFTER ALL, SHE WAS NOT DEPICTING THEM AS THEY WERE, BUT AS THEY MIGHT BE WERE THEY TO CULTIVATE THEIR BASER PASSIONS.

ON KRYLOR, IT IS THE ARTIST'S FUNCTION TO CRITICIZE SOCIETY THROUGH ANALOGY AND ALLEGORY... AND THAT BEREET DID TO PERFECTION.

THE KRYLORIAN INVASION OF EARTH IS OVER! THE SAUCERS HAVE GONE--AND WITH THEM, ALL HOPE OF MY EVER RETURNING TO KRYLOR...

NOT THAT I'D EVER WANT TO!

THE "FILM" ENDED...

...TO BE FOLLOWED BY THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE.

WHAT A MARVELOUS DENUNCIATION OF SOCIETY!

WHAT ALIENATION!

TRUE TECHNO-ART!

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

BUT, BEREET HAD ALREADY DEPARTED THE "THEATER"...

...AN ACT OF REJECTION WHICH ENDEARED HER ALL THE MORE TO HER KRYLORIAN FANS.

BUT THE ARTIST'S DEPARTURE HAD BEEN MORE A STATEMENT OF HER OWN FRUSTRATION.

THE KRYLORIAN PUBLIC CLAMORS ENDLESSLY FOR FURTHER *HULK* FILMS--

--IGNORING MY LATEST, MORE INNOVATIVE, *TECHNO-ART* CREATIONS. I TRY TO SATISFY BOTH MY AUDIENCE AND MYSELF--

--BUT OF LATE I'VE HAD THE FEELING THAT I'M GROWING STALE.

AN INCREDIBLE MOBILE AIRWAY CARRIED BEREET TO HER TOWER "STUDIO"...

...WHEREIN WAITED HER ALMOST-ALIVE TECHNO-ART CREATIONS.

HELLO, STURKY!

GRREEPLE

AMONG THEM WERE HER PET STURKY, BEREET'S FAVORITE; A **MOLECULE SCRAMBLER** CAPABLE OF CONVERTING ONE FORM OF MATTER INTO ANOTHER; THE **STAR EYE**, AN **ENTER-TAINMENT MODULE** ABLE TO CONTRIVE FICTIONAL NARRATIVES FROM WHATEVER SITUATIONS IT HAS WITNESSED; AND MANY, MANY OTHERS.

3

TOGETHER WITH HER "FILMS," THESE CREATIONS OF TECHNO-ART COMPRISED THE BODY OF BEREET'S WORK.

YOU ARE MY *TRUE* MASTERPIECES!--NOT MY MOVIES WHICH I, IF NOT MY PUBLIC, HAVE LONG OUTGROWN.

REE!

OF COURSE, MY FILMS ARE MORE ACCESSIBLE--

--THAN THESE GOSSAMER-WINGED WONDERS THAT SPRING FORTH FROM MY *BAG OF TRICKS!*

EACH ONE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST IN FUNCTION AND DESIGN.

A TRUE TECHNO-ARTIST NEVER REPEATS HERSELF.

BUT ALL THESE GO UNAPPRECIATED! MY PUBLIC PREFERS THOSE FILMS WHICH I MADE MERELY TO SUPPORT MYSELF.

FILMS THAT MOCK STAID AND STATIC KRYLORIAN SOCIETY BY IDOLIZING A BRUTE, SAVAGE MONSTER CALLED THE *HULK*--

--WHOM MY *STAR EYE* HAPPENED TO DISCOVER ONE DAY LONG AGO WHILE SCANNING DISTANT WORLDS BEYOND THE KRYLORIAN FRONTIER.

4

THE *HULK!* FROM AFAR, WE WITNESSED HIS BIRTH IN GAMMA GREEN FIRE!

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE WE HAVE OBSERVED HIS EXPLOITS, WEAVING THEM INTO EVER *NEW* FICTIONAL ADVENTURES--

--IN WHICH, THROUGH THE MAGIC OF TECHNO-ART, WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE PART. *

* AS SEEN IN *RAMPAGING HULK* MAGAZINE #1-9--ARCHIVAL AL.

I HAVE NEVER MET THE *REAL* HULK OR ANY OF HIS HUMAN COMPANIONS.

I DID NOT NEED TO!

THROUGH THE STAR EYE, I COULD MAKE THEM BE WHATEVER I WANTED THEM TO BE--

--WHICH, BASICALLY, WERE SYMBOLS OF EVERYTHING KRYLOR IS *NOT* AND NEVER WILL BE...PASSIONATE, POWERFUL, VOLATILE, ANARCHISTIC!

BUT, LATELY, I HAVE GROWN TIRED OF SUCH STATEMENTS...

...AND I HAVE BEGUN TO WONDER IF, IN MAKING THEM, I HAVE IGNORED THE *TRUE* HULK.

WHAT IF THE MAN-MONSTER WERE NOT AT ALL AS I HAVE DEPICTED HIM? WHAT IF *TRUTH* WERE MORE INTERESTING THAN *FICTION?*

MIGHT NOT BOTH I AND MY AUDIENCE FIND SOMETHING FRESH IN A *DOCUMENTARY* ON THE HULK?

OF COURSE, KRYLORIAN ARTISTS ARE FORBIDDEN, UNDER ENTERTAINMENT CODE XV-III, FROM EVER ACTUALLY ENGAGING ALIEN LIFE-FORMS IN THE CREATION OF OUR ART...

BUT THEN, KRYLORIAN ARTISTS ARE *ALSO* KNOWN FOR *IGNORING* ENTERTAINMENT CODE XV-III!

GLEEP!

BEREET'S *BAG OF TRICKS* WAS, IN ACTUALITY, A *SPATIAL DISTORTER* CONTAINING FAR MORE SPACE WITHIN THAN WAS EVIDENT FROM WITHOUT.

A CARRYING CASE FOR HER TECHNO-ART CREATIONS, BEREET'S BAG HELD, AMONG OTHER MARVELOUS THINGS, HER UN-BELIEVABLE **BANSHEE MASK.**

PLACING IT OVER HER FACE, BEREET BEGAN TO CONCEN-TRATE... HER THOUGHTS SOON ASSUMING ALL THE COMPLEXITY OF A MUSICAL FUGUE.

SOON, SHE HAD BECOME THE BANSHEE MASK, AND IT HAD BECOME HER...

...AND BOTH TO-GETHER HAD BECOME SOME-THING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, INDEED!

THE BEAK-PROWED STARSHIP SCREAMED AWAY FROM KRYLOR, DESTINATION: **EARTH.**

MISSION: TO FIND **THE INCREDIBLE HULK!**

IN THAT UNDERTAKING, BEREET WAS NOT ALONE.

6

Enter: THE HULK-HUNTERS!

TONIGHT, ON A DESERT OUTCROPPING SOMEWHERE IN THE GREAT AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, SITS A MAN, **DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER**, THOROUGHLY OBSESSED WITH HIMSELF.

OR RATHER, WITH **BOTH** OF HIS DISPARATE SELVES... THE BRILLIANT PHYSICIST HE HAD BEEN AND THE SAVAGE, SNARLING BEHEMOTH A DEADLY BLAST OF GAMMA RAYS HAD TURNED HIM INTO -- THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH -- **THE INCREDIBLE HULK!**

BRUCE? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE LEAVING THE LAB?

I NEEDED TO GET AWAY, BETTY -- TO BE ALONE -- TO THINK.

HE HAS COME TO THIS LONELY WASTELAND WITH HIS ONLY TWO FRIENDS IN THE WORLD, **BETTY ROSS** AND **RICK JONES**, TO TRY TO RESOLVE ONCE AND FOREVER WHETHER HE WILL LIVE OUT THE REST OF HIS LIFE AS **MAN**... OR **MONSTER**.

7

I'LL GO IF YOU WANT, BRUCE. IT'S JUST THAT OUR UNDER-GROUND LAB-ORATORY GROWS SO... CONFINING... AT TIMES.

IT'S HIDDEN AWAY IN THE DESERT OUT HERE THE WAY THE HULK IS HIDDEN INSIDE ME.

YEARS AGO, WHEN I KNEW I WAS ON THE VERGE OF GREAT DIS-COVERIES, IN THE FIELD OF GAMMA RESEARCH, I'D HOPED THAT WONDERS TO BENEFIT ALL MANKIND WOULD SPRING FROM WITHIN THAT LAB... FROM WITHIN MYSELF.

I WAS WRONG. ALL I EVER CREATED...WAS HORROR.

AND YOU'VE RETURNED HERE TO REVERSE THAT HORROR.

--TO FIND A WAY OF CURING YOURSELF FROM BECOMING YOUR HATED ALTER EGO... FOREVER.

BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, CAN'T YOU SIT WITH YOUR ARMS AROUND ME AND TELL ME HOW BEAUTIFUL THE DESERT CAN BE AT NIGHT?

BEAUTIFUL?!

NO, IT'S ***FRIGHTENING*** TO THINK THAT YOU, THE DESERT, THIS PLANET, EVEN THE STARS NEED TO BE ***PRO-TECTED*** FROM MY MINDLESS MURDEROUS RAMPAGES!

NOT ***YOUR*** RAMPAGES, BRUCE! THE ***HULK'S***! YOU'RE ***NOT*** THE HULK -- YOU NEVER ***HAVE*** BEEN! IT'S THE HULK WHO IS THE MONSTER!

YOU ARE THE MAN I'VE LOVED FOR YEARS! WAITED FOR FOR YEARS!

I CAME TO THIS GODFORSAKEN DESERT TO BE BESIDE YOU AT THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!

YOU'RE A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST! IF ANYONE CAN FIND A CURE FOR YOUR CONDITION, IT'S ***YOU!*** BUT YOU'LL NEVER SUCCEED IF YOU START ***IDENTIFYING*** YOUR-SELF WITH THE HULK!

YOU'LL LOSE BEFORE YOU'VE BEGUN -- AND YOU'LL LOSE ME, AS WELL!

BETTY, I--I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU.

IT'S JUST THAT IT'S HARD -- SO VERY HARD -- TO DENY MY COMMON LINK TO A CREATURE WITH WHOM I'VE SHARED MY EXISTENCE FOR SO MANY YEARS.

YOU MUST SEVER THAT LINK, DARLING! YOU MUST RECLAIM YOUR HUMANITY!

YOU MUST DESTROY THE HULK IF WE'RE EVER TO HAVE A LIFE TOGETHER!

BELOW, RICK JONES HAPPENS TO OVER-HEAR...

DESTROY THE HULK. SO NOW IT'S BEEN SAID.

CURING DOC BANNER WAS THE REASON WE CAME OUT HERE...

8

...BUT I GUESS WHAT EVERYONE REALLY MEANT-- AND WHAT I DIDN'T *WANT* TO UNDERSTAND-- IS THAT YOU CAN'T *CURE* THE ONE WITHOUT *ELIMINATING* THE OTHER!

THAT'S THE NAME OF *THIS* GAME, RICKY-BOY!

IT'S THE DOC'S GAME-- GOTTA BE-- PLAYED BY HIS RULES! IF HE SAYS THE HULK GOES, THE REST OF US FOLD!

ONLY, DOESN'T THE *HULK* HAVE A RIGHT TO BE DEALT A HAND?

ADJOINING A DESERT LAKE IS A CAVERN. WITHIN THE CAVERN IS A HIDDEN, STONE-HEWN STAIRWAY...

... A STAIRWAY WHICH LEADS DOWN TO THE UNDERGROUND LABORATORY BUILT YEARS AGO BY DOCTOR ROBERT BRUCE BANNER.

YEAH, THE HULK'S SAVAGERY-- HIS STRENGTH-- HAVE ALWAYS MADE HIM ODD MAN OUT!

BUT WHAT IF THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT? WHAT IF THE HULK HAD HAD THE *DOC'S BRAIN?* HE'D BE AS BRILLIANT AS THE EVIL *LEADER*--

--AND STILL BE STRONG, TO BOOT!

LGO

"BOY, THERE'D BE NO END TO THE *GOOD* HE COULD DO!"

THE DOC'S WRONG! SURE, HE'S GOT A RIGHT TO LIVE-- BUT SO DOES THE HULK!

HE MAY NOT NEED OL' JADE-JAWS, BUT THE WORLD DOES!

BUT IS IT THE WORLD THAT NEEDS THE HULK...

...OR RICK JONES WHO, NEVER HAVING "FOUND HIMSELF" IN ANY OTHER FIELD OF ENDEAVOR, HAS COME TO DEFINE HIS LIFE IN TERMS OF A SIDEKICK TO THE GREEN GOLIATH?

A QUESTION PONDERED UNDER A GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR.

9

MEANWHILE, MILLIONS OF MILES FROM EARTH, A STARSHIP MATERIALIZES OUT OF HYPERSPACE AND CLOSES IN ON OUR BIG BLUE MARBLE.

RAISE *INVISISCREENS* TO AVOID DETECTION.

INVISISCREENS RAISED, YOUR HIGHNESS.

CLOSER IT COMES UNTIL, STILL FAR BEYOND EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, IT STOPS.

THERE, INTO THE VACUUM OF SPACE, IT RELEASES THREE *PROBE PODS.*

LIKE STONES THEY PLUMMET TOWARDS THE PLANET FAR BELOW.

LIKE COMETS THEY BLAZE UPON ENTERING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERIC SHEATH.

LIKE STARS THEY LIGHT UP THE NIGHT SKY OVER NORTH AMERICA.

BUT, LIKE NOTHING EVER BEFORE SEEN, THEY SLOW THEIR FIERY DESCENT AND SWEEP IN FORMATION OVER THE DESERT SANDS.

WHILE, ABOARD THE BRIDGE OF THE ORBITING MOTHER-SHIP...

SENSORS WITHIN THE PROBE PODS HAVE BEGUN A SWEEP-SEARCH FOR THEIR TARGET. IF ANYONE KNOWS ANY PRAYERS --

--I SUGGEST YOU OFFER THEM, IN THE HOPE THAT THE *HULK-HUNTERS* SHALL FIND THEIR PREY!

10

AND, IN THE DESERT BELOW...

YOU'RE RIGHT, BETTY. I'VE GOT TO **STOP** THINKING OF MYSELF AS THE HULK.

WE'RE TWO SEPARATE BEINGS, ACCIDENTALLY SHARING THE SAME EXISTENCE.

AS BRUCE BANNER, I HAVE MUCH TO OFFER THE WORLD IN THE WAY OF KNOWLEDGE. THE HULK HAS NOTHING TO OFFER ANYBODY, AND THAT IS WHY HE MUST BE DESTROYED.

BETTY? YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE LISTENING TO ME. WHAT IS IT? WHAT ARE YOU STARING--

--AT?

ONCE, THREE WISE MEN WENT FORTH IN SEARCH OF A STAR. TONIGHT, THREE STARS HAVE COME IN SEARCH OF A WISE MAN... AND THE MONSTER INSIDE HIM.

DOC! BETTY! DIDJA SEE THAT WEIRD GLOW LIGHTING UP THE DESERT?

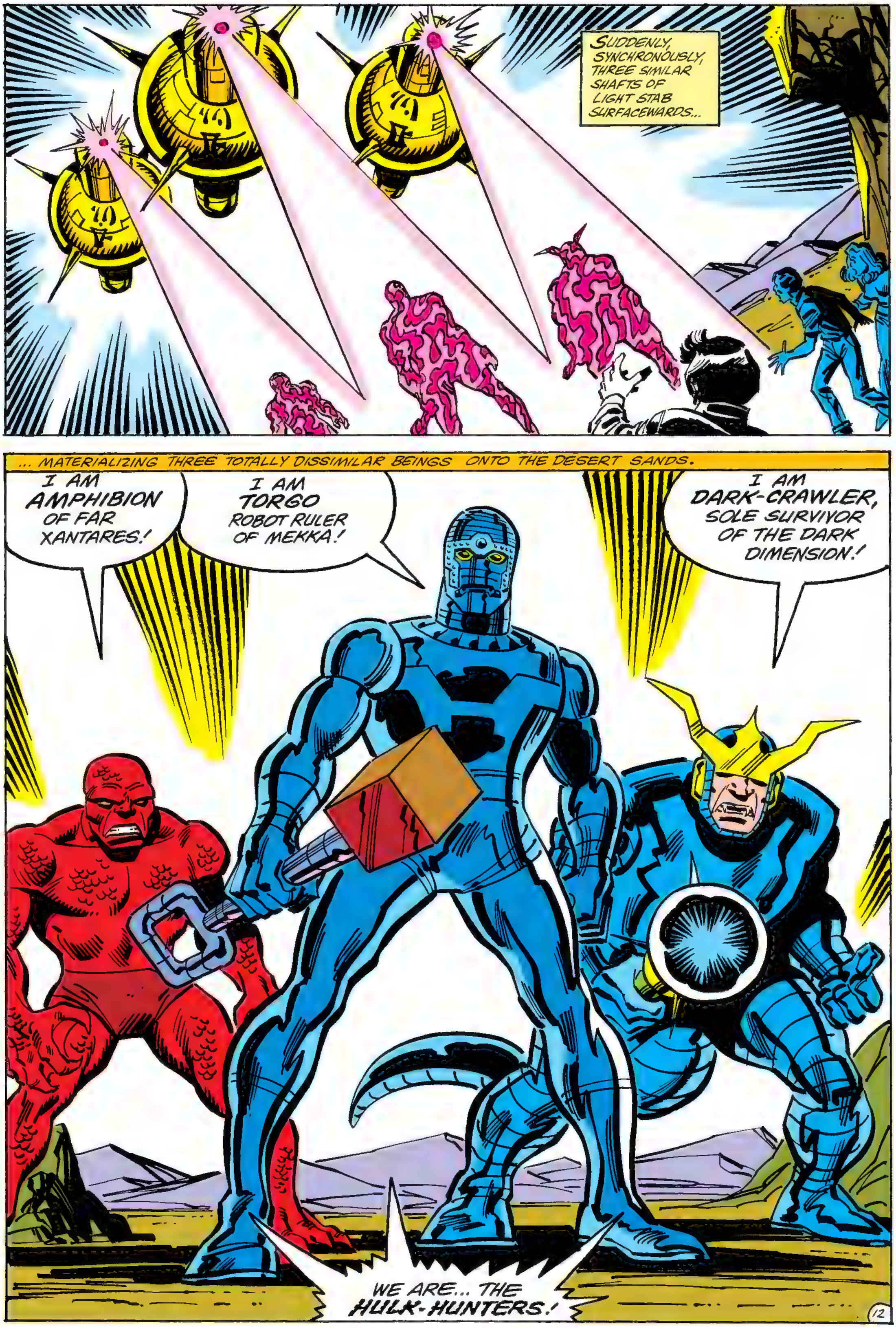
OH, I GUESS YOU DID!

WHAT ARE THEY, BRUCE? WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

WHAT DO THEY *WANT*?!

I'M AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS YOU ARE, BETTY!

THE *MARKINGS* ON THE CRAFT SEEM STRANGELY FAMILIAR, BUT...


SUDDENLY, SYNCHRONOUSLY, THREE SIMILAR SHAFTS OF LIGHT STAB SURFACEWARDS...
... MATERIALIZING THREE TOTALLY DISSIMILAR BEINGS ONTO THE DESERT SANDS.
I AM AMPHIBION OF FAR XANTARES!
I AM TORGO ROBOT RULER OF MEKKA!
I AM DARK-CRAWLER, SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE DARK DIMENSION!
WE ARE... THE HULK-HUNTERS!
12

FACED WITH SUCH A PRONOUNCEMENT, DELIVERED IN SUCH A MANNER BY SUCH STRANGE BEINGS, ANOTHER MAN WOULD FIND HIMSELF INCAPABLE OF ANALYTICAL THOUGHT. BRUCE BANNER HAS NEVER BEEN "ANOTHER" MAN.

THEY WANT THE HULK! THEY MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF DETECTION SENSORS LOCKED ONTO HIS GAMMA-IRRADIATED PHYSIOLOGY!

MY GAMMA-IRRADIATED PHYSIOLOGY!

MAYBE THEY DON'T SUSPECT YOU'RE THE HULK YET, BRUCE!

THE DOC CAN SOLVE THAT BY TURNING INTO OL' GREENSKIN AN' PULVERIZING 'EM!

IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMS, MY SENSORS REVEAL THAT YOU, HUMAN, ARE ALSO THE BEING CALLED THE HULK!

THAT PALE, PITIFUL WORM, IS HE WHO WE SEEK?

YES! I ENCOUNTERED HIM IN BOTH OF HIS GUISES MANY PHASES AGO!*

*SEE HULK # 126 -- AL.

WHY DON'T YOU GO? LEAVE BRUCE ALONE! THE HULK ISN'T HERE!

WHY NOT LET 'EM FIND THE HULK, BETTY! HE'LL POUND 'EM TO POWDER!

RICK, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? BRUCE WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BECOME THE HULK AGAIN!

YEAH, WELL, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TIMES WHEN HE MIGHTA DIED IF HE HADN'T TURNED INTO THE HULK -- LEAVIN' YOU ONE LESS BOYFRIEND!

STOP ARGUING, RICK! WE'VE GOT TO GET BRUCE AWAY FROM THESE BEINGS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

TOO LATE FOR WHO, BETTY -- THE HULK, OR THEM?!

TOO LATE FOR THE ENTIRE COSMOS, YOUTH, SHOULD OUR HUNT PROVE UNSUCCESSFUL!

BUT IT WILL NOT SO PROVE, FOR OUR QUARRY IS AT HAND!

WHAT?!

OH, NO! NO!

13

YES!

YOU COME TO HUNT THE HULK?!

HULK IS HERE!!

WAY TA GO!

OH, MY POOR, POOR BRUCE!

THERE IS NO MORE BRUCE--NO PUNY BANNER TO HOLD HULK BACK!

NOW THERE IS ONLY HULK AND HULK'S *ENEMIES*--

AND HULK WILL SMASH!

AMPHIBION! YOU BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE BRUTE'S ASSAULT!

I HAVE BORNE IT BEFORE, TORGO.., LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY ON THE FABLED HOMEWORLD OF THE WONDROUS *WATCHER*!

THERE, THIS BEING AND I DID VIE FOR POSSESSION OF THE WATCHER'S GREATEST SCIENTIFIC TREASURE -- THE *ULTIMATE MACHINE!* *

* WAY BACK IN TALES TO ASTONISH # 74 -- AL AGAIN.

HULK REMEMBERS FIGHT, FISH-MAN!

AAARGHH!

-- AND HULK REMEMBERS THAT YOU *LOST* THEN, LIKE YOU WILL LOSE *NOW!*

14

SPLASH!

BRUCE--THE HULK--HE DEFEATED THAT CREATURE!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, BETTY? MY BIG GREEN BUDDY'S BEEN PLOWING 'EM UNDER FOR YEARS!

ONLY THIS TIME, IT'S THREE AGAINST ONE, AN' MY GUESS IS ANY TRIO THAT STYLES THEMSELVES "*THE HULK-HUNTERS*" MUST'VE COME READY TO DO THE JOB!

IF THAT'S THE CASE, OL' JADE-JAWS IS GONNA NEED *HELP!*

HELP? WHAT *KIND* OF HELP?

THE KIND THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE DOC'S UNDER-GROUND LAB!

NOT UNDERSTANDING, BUT NOT WISHING TO SEE THE MAN SHE LOVES AS A SAVAGE, SNARLING BERSERKER, BETTY ROSS FOLLOWS.

YOU MISCONSTRUE OUR PURPOSE IN COMING TO EARTH, HULK! THERE WAS NO REASON TO ATTACK AMPHIBION.

HUNTERS CAME HUNTING HULK! WHAT ELSE IS HULK TO THINK?

THAT THE WORD '*HUNT*' HAS MANY MEANINGS, INCLUDING: '*TO SEEK OUT*'!

WHATEVER WORDS SNAKE-TAIL USES, THEY ALL MEAN THAT SNAKE-TAIL WANTS TO HURT HULK!

THAT IS WHY SNAKE-TAIL SURROUNDS HULK IN DARKNESS!

NO! I EMPLOY MY *SCEPTRE OF SHADOWS* ONLY TO IMMOBILIZE YOU!

15

ON THE OCCASSION IN WHICH WE MET, HULK, 'TWAS *I* WHO MISCONSTRUED *YOUR* MOTIVES FOR COMING TO MY DIMENSION-BETWEEN-DIMENSIONS!

I LEARNED, TOO LATE, THAT 'TWAS NOT *YOU* WHO WAS MY ENEMY--

--BUT THE *UNDYING ONES* WHO HAD DISPATCHED YOU THENCE, AN UNWITTING PAWN, TO DESTROY ME!

SHATTER MY SHADOW-REALM YOU DID, BUT-- MY EYES OPENED TO THE TRUTH -- I SET MY-SELF AGAINST THE UN-DYING ONES IN A BATTLE WITHOUT EQUAL!

I TRIUMPHED, AND MADE *THEIR* REALM MINE--A VICTORY I OWE TO YOU!

TALK! *TALK! TALK!* HULK IS SICK OF *HEARING* TALK!

HULK WANTS TO SEE!

IN A SAVAGE RUSH, THE HULK HURLS HIM-SELF HEADLONG AT THE SOUND OF THE DARK-CRAWLER'S VOICE.

ONE SWIPE OF HIS GREAT GREEN HAND, AND THE DARKNESS SUR-ROUNDING HIM IS DISPELLED.

SKRAK

NO! NOT MY SCEPTRE OF SHADOWS!

YES! WITHOUT SNAKE-TAIL'S DARK WEAPON--

SNAKE-TAIL IS HELPLESS BEFORE HULK!

RAARGHH!

WRONG, HULK! NO HULK-HUNTER IS HELPLESS --

--SO LONG AS ANOTHER HULK-HUNTER STANDS.

THEN ROBOT-MAN WILL *NOT* STAND!

HULK WILL TEAR ROBOT-MAN'S *LEGS* OUT FROM UNDER HIM!

EVEN ON DISTANT MEKKA, OUR COMPUTERS HAVE SERVED UP STORIES OF YOUR SAVAGE STRENGTH--

-- BUT, ERE LEAVING ON THIS QUEST, I HAD THEM REDESIGN ME SO THAT I WOULD BE EQUAL TO THE TASK OF CONFRONTING YOU!

YOU *MUST* BE SUBDUED-- FOR THE SAKE OF THE ENTIRE *COSMOS!*

AS MACHINE-MAN WRESTLES WITH MAN-MONSTER ON THE DESERT FLOOR...

... BETTY ROSS PURSUES RICK JONES DOWN INTO THE COOL CONFINES OF BRUCE BANNER'S SUBSURFACE LAB.

RICK, THERE ARE NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND DOWN HERE -- ONLY BRUCE'S *GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR* WHICH HE'S USING TO TRY AND CURE HIMSELF!

THE PROJECTOR PROJECTS GAMMA RAYS, RIGHT?

AND GAMMA RAYS ARE WHAT *MADE* THE DOC TURN INTO THE HULK IN THE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND--!

OH, NO! RICK, YOU CAN'T MEAN TO--! YOU MUST BE *OUT OF YOUR MIND!!*

17

AM I? YOU REMEMBER THAT THE DOC BECAME THE HULK BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO HELP ME?*

WELL, NOW IT'S THE DOC-- AS THE HULK-- WHO NEEDS HELP!

* WAY, WAY BACK IN THE INCREDIBLE HULK #1--AL.

NO EASY TASK-- NOT AGAINST THREE SUPER-POWERED WEIRDOS FROM SPACE!

RICK, UNLOCK THE DOOR!

NO CAN DO, BETTY! ONCE I ACTIVATE THE GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR, IT'S GONNA GET PRETTY 'HOT'-- RADIATION-WISE--IN HERE!

YOU SEE, I'M SICK OF BEING A SIDELINE-SOLDIER WHILE THE HULK TAKES ALL THE PUNCHES! I GOTTA HELP HIM IN A *REAL* WAY...

BY BECOMING AS *POWERFUL* AS THE HULK HIMSELF!

THEN, LET THE DOC *HAVE* HIS CURE! THE WORLD'S *STILL* GONNA HAVE A *HULK!*

A FATEFUL FLOOR STUD IS DE-PRESSED.

WHILE, ON THE DESERT ABOVE...

WILL YOU NOT CALM YOUR RAGE, HULK? THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME!

HUNTERS CAME HUNTING FOR HULK! HULK WILL SMASH HUNTERS!

YES, WE CAME HUNTING FOR YOU, YOU BRUTE--

--NOT TO *HARM* YOU, HULK--

--BUT TO SEEK YOUR AID!

BUT YOU ATTACKED BEFORE ASCERTAINING OUR PURPOSE!

THOSE WHO DISPATCHED US TO FIND YOU FEARED *OUR* POWER WAS NOT ENOUGH IN THE FACE OF THE CURRENT DANGER!

ONLY *YOU*, HULK, POSSESS THE MIGHT TO SAVE THE MYRIAD WORLDS OF TRACKLESS SPACE!

AND USE YOUR POWER TO SAVE THEM YOU WILL--

-- EVEN IF WE HAVE TO DRAG YOU IN CHAINS INTO CONFRONTATION AGAINST THE FEARSOME FOE!

CHAINS? HULK WILL *NEVER* BE CHAINED!

THROOR

UNNGH!

SPAKOW!

HULK WILL NEVER BE MADE TO DO WHAT HULK DOES NOT WANT TO DO!

YOU DO NOT WISH TO SAVE YOUR WORLD, YOUR UNIVERSE--

--ALL UNIVERSES FROM THE THREAT TO COME?

19

BARRRK!

HULK ONLY WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE!!

FRUD!

TORGO, WE HAVE FAILED! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

SUMMON THE *EMPRESS* -- SHE WHO SET US OUT UPON THIS HUNT!

CALL WHOEVER YOU WANT! CALL SOLDIERS! SPACESHIPS! MORE LIKE YOU!

HULK WILL SMASH AND SMASH AND SMASH THEM *ALL*!

CURSE THE BRAINLESS BRUTE, THERE IS NO DENYING HE HAS THE *POWER* WE NEED!

ELSE WE WOULD HAVE AGAIN FACED THE FOE OURSELVES!

WE WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH HIM ALIVE!

LET THE *EMPRESS* DECIDE WHAT TO DO!

WHERE IS EMPRESS? HULK IS WAITING! HULK WILL--! HUNH?

LIGHT FROM SKY-- SHINING ALL AROUND HULK!

20

I AM THE *EMPRESS DAYDRA* OF THE SAGITTARIUS SYSTEM, HULK.

I AM SORRY THAT YOU MISUNDERSTOOD THE PURPOSE OF MY HUNTERS. IN SEEKING YOU OUT THEY MEANT ***NOT*** TO INJURE OR IMPRISON YOU IN ANY WAY--

--BUT TO SECURE YOUR ***HELP*** AS YOU HAD HELPED US ONCE BEFORE!

HULK REMEMBERS GREY-SKINNED GIRL!

GIRL? YES, I ***WAS*** A GIRL WHEN YOU KNEW ME.

A MERE CHILD WHO SAW HER EMPIRE IN THRALL TO A BEING MORE EVIL, MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER IN THE KNOWN COSMOS.

'TWAS THE ***GALAXY MASTER*** WE CRAVENLY SERVED--AS HE WENT FROM WORLD TO WORLD, DESTROYING ALL, THAT THERE MIGHT NEVER ARISE ANOTHER AS MIGHTY AS HE TO CHALLENGE HIS POWER!

HE SEEMED UNBEATABLE, HULK, UNTIL HE ENCOUNTERED--***YOU!*** *

*AS CHRONICLED IN HULK#112--AL.

HULK DESTROYED MOUTH-MONSTER FOREVER!

NO, NOT FOREVER, HULK--ONLY FOR A TIME. HE HAS ARISEN AGAIN--

--AND AGAIN HE SCOURGES GALAXIES, PRECEDED BY A CHAMPION AGAINST WHOM NONE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STAND!

AS WE WERE DE-FEATED BY YOU, HULK, SO WERE WE BEATEN BACK BY THE GALAXY-MASTER'S CHAMPION!

21

WHO IS MOUTH-MONSTER'S CHAMPION?

NO ONE KNOWS BY WHAT NAME HE IS CALLED-- ONLY THAT HIS SKIN IS OF THE SAME PIGMENTATION AS YOURS, AND THAT HE IS AS SAVAGE AND AS STRONG AS *YOU* IN EVERY WAY!

NO ONE IS AS STRONG AS HULK, GIRL--

-- IN ANY WAY!

THEN WILL YOU STAND BESIDE TORGO, AMPHIBION, AND DARK-CRAWLER-- BEARING THE COLORS OF DAYDRA OF SAGITTARIUS...

... IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE GALAXY MASTER AND HIS CHAMPION FROM WREAKING HAVOC UPON MY REALM?

HULK WILL COME TO SEE THIS GREEN-SKIN WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE AS STRONG AS HULK--

--AND HULK WILL *SMASH!*

I TAKE IT, THEN, THAT YOU ASSENT TO ACCOMPANY US? GOOD!

COME, THEN, HULK!

--THE BATTLE FOR THE COSMOS AWAITS!

THE STARSHIP DEPARTS, SLIPPING AGAIN INTO HYPERSPACE...

...LEAVING A DANGEROUS DRAMA TO BE PLAYED OUT BACK ON EARTH.

YEEAAGGHH!

RICK! RICK!

22

NEXT MONTH: MORE ON *BEREET*, THE GREENING OF *RICK JONES*, AND A FEARSOME FACE FROM THE *PAST* IN...

THE GOLIATH, THE GARGOYLE, and the GALAXY MASTER!

60¢ | 270 APR 02456

©1981 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TM

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

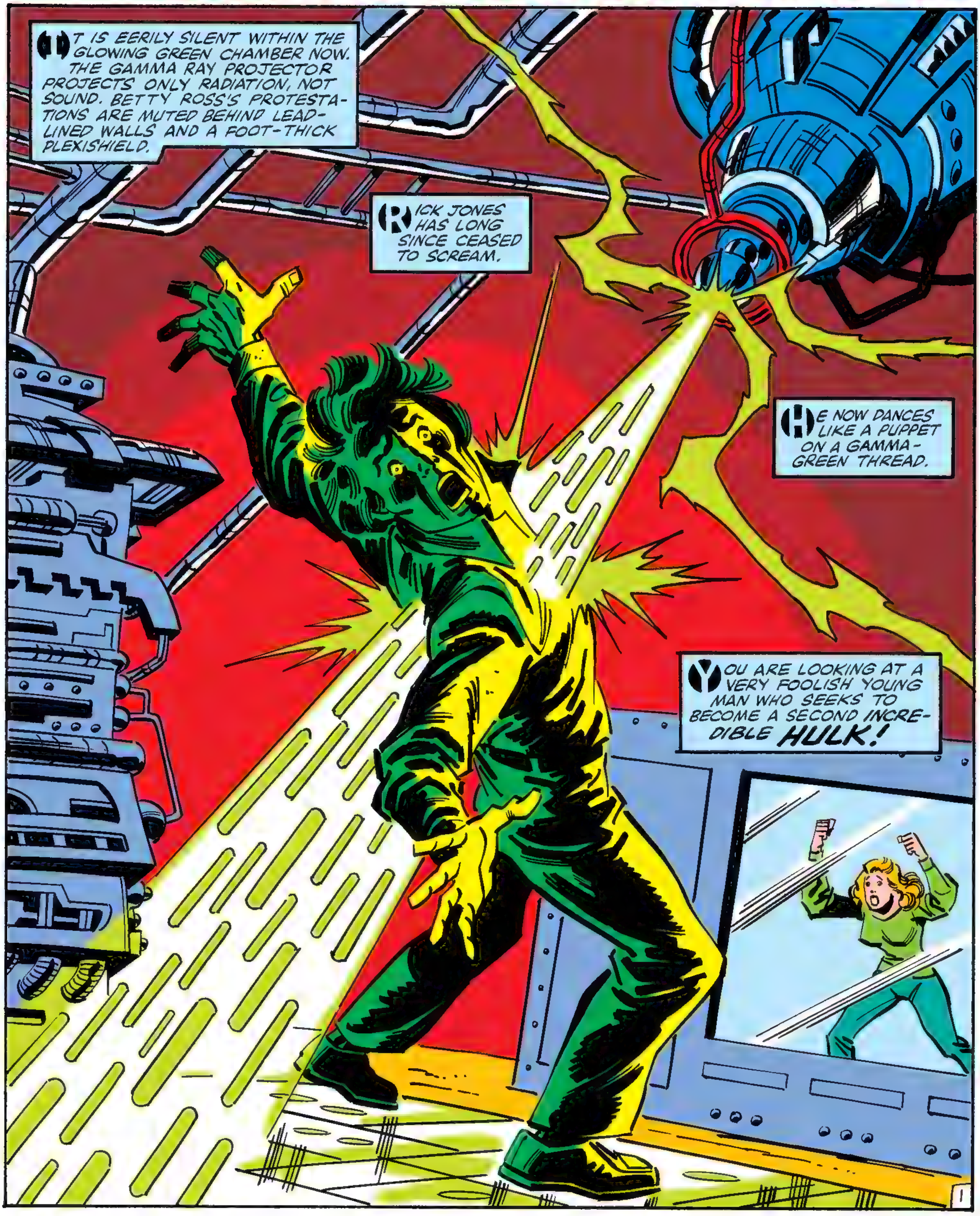
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

MILGROM/MITCHELL

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®


IT IS EERILY SILENT WITHIN THE GLOWING GREEN CHAMBER NOW. THE GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR PROJECTS ONLY RADIATION, NOT SOUND. BETTY ROSS'S PROTESTATIONS ARE MUTED BEHIND LEAD-LINED WALLS AND A FOOT-THICK PLEXISHIELD.
RICK JONES HAS LONG SINCE CEASED TO SCREAM.
HE NOW DANCES LIKE A PUPPET ON A GAMMA-GREEN THREAD.
YOU ARE LOOKING AT A VERY FOOLISH YOUNG MAN WHO SEEKS TO BECOME A SECOND INCREDIBLE HULK!

RICK'S PLAN DOES NOT, HOWEVER, SEEM TO BE WORKING. INSTEAD OF BECOMING BIG, GREEN AND POWERFUL, HE SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF MORE HELPLESS THAN HE HAS EVER FELT IN HIS LIFE.

THEN THERE'S THE AWFUL AGONY WHICH, IF NOT ALLEVIATED, MAY WELL KILL HIM.

WHILE, FOR BETTY ROSS, THE TRUE HORROR LIES IN BEING ABLE TO DO NOTHING TO EASE RICK'S SUFFERING.

NOTHING BUT WATCH, AND REMEMBER...

...REMEMBER HOW THEY CAME, TOGETHER, TO THIS DESERT HIDEAWAY.

BETTY, RICK, AND **DR. BRUCE BANNER**, THE BRILLIANT PHYSICIST TORTURED BY HIS AWESOME ALTER-EGO, **THE INCREDIBLE HULK!**

IN HIS DESERT LAB, BRUCE BANNER SOUGHT A CURE FOR HIS CONDITION. HE WISHED TO BE RID OF THE HULK FOREVER. BETTY SUPPORTED THAT DECISION, FOR SHE HAD LOVED THE MAN, TRAPPED WITHIN THE MONSTER, FOR YEARS.

RICK OPPOSED IT. WHY, HE ARGUED, COULDN'T BANNER BE BOTH? A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST POSSESSED OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH COULD SURELY BENEFIT ALL MANKIND.

BANNER REJECTED RICK'S ARGUMENT. HE DIDN'T WANT TO **CONTROL** THE HULK--HE WANTED TO BE **FREE** OF HIM.

THEN THE ARRIVAL OF THE **HULK-HUNTERS--AMPHIBION** OF XANTARES, **TORGO** OF MEKKA, AND **DARK-CRAWLER** OF THE DARK DIMENSION--CUT THE ARGUMENT SHORT.

WE COME SEEKING THE HULK!

THEY FOUND HIM.

STILL, IT WAS THREE VERY POWERFUL BEINGS AGAINST ONE. RICK SOUGHT TO EVEN THE ODDS...

...BY SUBJECTING HIMSELF TO THOSE SELF-SAME GAMMA RAYS THAT HAD, LO, THOSE MANY YEARS AGO, TURNED **BRUCE BANNER** INTO THE **HULK.**

YEEAGGHHH!

RICK'S BEEN EXPOSED TO THE GAMMA RAYS FOR TEN MINUTES! I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE HE CAN TAKE!

I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM... NOW!

CAN'T REACH THE PROJECTOR'S CONTROL CONSOLE... IT'S LOCKED IN THE CHAMBER WITH RICK!

THE ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO CUT OFF ITS POWER--

--AT ITS SOURCE!!

FZRAKK

THE BUNKER GOES DARK. THEN BACK-UP GENERATORS HUM ON, PROVIDING ILLUMINATION. THEY ARE NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO RESTART THE GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR, HOWEVER, OR TO RE-SECURE THE ELECTRO-LOCKS THAT HAD KEPT BETTY OUT OF THE CHAMBER.

RICK?

RICK!

HE'S NOT MOVING-- BARELY BREATHING-- PULSE SO FAINT! I'M NOT EVEN SURE IT'S THERE!

BRUCE WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE BRUCE IS!

IT'S UP TO ME! IF I DON'T GET RICK TO A HOSPITAL SOON, I'M AFRAID HE'LL *DIE!*

DIE? OH, DEAR-- NO, HE CAN'T DO THAT!

NOT, AT LEAST, UNTIL I CAN RECORD IT FOR MY NEW MOVIE!

THE--ER-- LADY'S NAME IS *BEREET.*

SHE'S WHAT YOU'D CALL A TECHNO-ARTIST FROM THE PLANET KRYLOR.

SHE IS ALSO THE ABSOLUTE LAST THING BETTY ROSS NEEDS TO SEE AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS.

AT ABOUT THIS POINT YOU SHOULD BE WONDERING WHERE ON EARTH THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS, WHAT WITH THIS MAG BEARING HIS NAME AND ALL.

GRAAR! HULK DOES NOT LIKE IT HERE!

WELL, TO BE QUITE HONEST, OL' GREENSKIN'S NOT ON EARTH... NOT ANYMORE.

HE'S GONE WILLINGLY ABOARD A SAGITTARIAN WARP-CLASS SPACE CRUISER WITH THE FORMER "HULK-HUNTERS" TO TEST HIS STRENGTH IN A COSMIC COMBAT BETWEEN...

THE GOLIATH, THE GARGOYLE AND THE GALAXY MASTER!

BILL MANTLO / WRITER | SAL BUSCEMA / ARTIST | NOVAK, LETTERS SHAREN, COLORS | AL MILGROM / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / CHIEF

WHY DOES OUR EMERALD ALLY RAGE SO, TORGO? DID HE NOT AGREE TO AID US?

AYE, DARK-CRAWLER-- ONLY THE POWER OF THE HULK CAN STAND AGAINST HE WHO WOULD CONSUME THE COSMOS.

BAH! WHAT KIND OF HELP CAN WE EXPECT FROM A BRUTE TOO BRAINLESS TO KNOW FRIEND FROM FOE?

HAVE A CARE, AMPHIBION. IT IS YOUR SARCASM THAT ENRAGES THE HULK.

FISH-MAN MAKES FUN OF HULK -- BUT WITHOUT HULK'S HELP FISH-MAN IS DOOMED!

4

OVERBEARING BEHEMOTH! I AM CHOSEN CHAMPION OF XANTARES--!

HULK HAS BEATEN YOU BEFORE, FISH-MAN!

AND SO HAS *HE* AGAINST WHOM WE HAVE UNITED, AMPHIBION!

DO NOT FORGET THAT OUR ENEMY IS THE OMNIVEROUS *GALAXY MASTER* AND HIS EMERALD-HUED SERVANT, THE *RAVAGER OF WORLDS!*

YES! THE *RAVAGER* SOFTENS UP THOSE STAR SYSTEMS WHICH RESIST BEING CONSUMED, AND THEN THE *GALAXY MASTER* DEVOURS THEIR ENERGY, UNOPPOSED!

THE *RAVAGER* DEFEATED WE THREE! WE BARELY ESCAPED WITH OUR LIVES!

HE IS GREEN OF SKIN, LIKE THE HULK, AND PERHAPS AS POWERFUL!

STRONGER! THE HULK WILL FARE NO BETTER AGAINST THE RAVAGER THAN WE DID!

HULK HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU, FISH-MAN--

--NO ONE IS STRONGER THAN HULK! BUT, IF YOU WANT HULK TO PROVE IT--

YES, YOU MISBEGOTTEN MONSTROSITY-- THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I WANT!

TORGO, SHOULD WE SEPARATE THEM?

NO, DARK-CRAWLER--THIS REMATCH HAS BEEN COMING SINCE THE HULK BESTED AMPHIBION DOWN ON EARTH.

LONGER THAN THAT, TORGO-- SINCE THIS BRAINLESS BRUTE DEFEATED ME MANY PHASES AGO ON THE HOMEWORLD OF THE WONDROUS *WATCHER!**

SINCE THEN I HAVE HONED MY FIGHTING SKILLS AGAINST WARRIORS FROM WORLD UPON WORLD!

EVER HAVE I TRIUMPHED! EVER HAVE I EMERGED VICTORIOUS!

*RECOUNTED IN THE CLASSIC *TALES TO ASTONISH* #74--ARCHIVAL AL.

EXCEPT AGAINST THE HULK!

HULK HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU THE REASON FOR THAT, FISH-MAN!

5

HULK IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!!

KATHROOM!

SUMMON THE EMPRESS!

TELL HER HER CHAMPIONS ARE DESTROYING HER SHIP!

I GO!

THIS VENTING OF THEIR MUTUAL ANIMOSITY HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH, DARK-CRAWLER! WE MUST CALL A HALT TO IT!

LUCKILY THE CRYSTAL OF MY SCEPTRE OF SHADOWS HAS HAD TIME TO REFORM SINCE THE HULK SMASHED IT!*

*LAST ISH--AL AGAIN.

THEN YOU SUBDUE AMPHIBION, MY FRIEND--WHILE I ATTEMPT TO CALM A RAGING HULK!

AHHRRR!

THE MAN-MACHINE'S ELECTROSTAVE WOULD STUN AN ARMY --BUT IT ONLY ENRAGES THE HULK!

HOLD FAST, TORGO! AS SOON AS MY SEPTRE OF SHADOWS IMMOBILIZES AMPHIBION I SHALL COME TO YOUR AID!

ACCURSED COWARD! IF I COULD BUT SEE--!

BUT YOU CANNOT, COMRADE-AT-ARMS, WHILE ENVELOPED IN UTTER DARKNESS!

ENOUGH! CEASE THIS SENSELESS BRAWLING!

THE EMPRESS!

WHY DOES GIRL ALWAYS INTERFERE WHEN HULK IS ABOUT TO SMASH HULK'S ATTACKERS?!

6

IN THE FIRST PLACE, EARTHLING, I AM NOT A *GIRL!* I AM *DAYDRA*--

--*EMPRESS OF THE SAGITTARIUS STAR SYSTEM!*

IN THE SECOND PLACE, I HAVE ASSEMBLED YOU FOUR TO FIGHT *NOT* EACH OTHER--

--BUT THE GRUESOME *GALAXY MASTER* WHO ONCE HELD MY PEOPLE IN THRALL... AND WHO NOW RISES UP TO MENACE ALL THE COSMOS AGAIN!

LOOK LONG AND HARD AT THE FACE OF DOOM, MY HEROES! EVEN ACROSS THE LIGHT YEARS HIS VILE VISAGE FILLS OUR SCANNER SCREENS WITH HORROR!

WILL YOU EXPEND YOUR POWER FIGHTING AMONGST YOURSELVES OR WILL YOU UNITE AGAINST THE COMMON FOE?

WELL, WHAT SAY YOU--

--*AMPHIBION OF XANTARES?*

YES!

DARK-CRAWLER OF THE DARK DIMENSION?

YES!

TORGO OF MEKKA?

YES!

HULK OF EARTH?

BAH! HULK HAS ALREADY BEATEN MOUTH-MONSTER ONCE!*

*IN THE INCREDIBLE HULK #112 -- ASSIDUOUS AL.

WHY SHOULD HULK NEED *HELP* TO BEAT MOUTH-MONSTER AGAIN?!

OH, HULK, HULK-- HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD NOTHING OF WHAT WE HAVE TOLD YOU?

IT *WAS* YOU WHO FIRST DEFEATED THE GALAXY MASTER, TRUE!

"BUT SINCE HIS RESURRECTION HIS POWER HAS INCREASED TENFOLD! MIGHTY SPACE ARMADAS SENT TO STOP HIS EXPANSION HAVE FAILED TO RETURN!

"THE GALAXY MASTER DESTROYS ALL HE TOUCHES! HE CANNOT HELP HIMSELF, NOR WOULD HE IF HE COULD!

"THEREIN LAY HIS QUANDRY: DEAD WORLDS FEED HIM NO ENERGY!

"IN ORDER TO EXIST, TO GROW, THE GALAXY MASTER NEEDS LIVING WORLDS--

"--TOTALLY SUBSERVIENT, SLAVING TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE ENERGY HE NEEDS!

"IT IS TO ENSURE SUCH TOTAL SUBJUGATION, SUCH UNQUESTIONING SERVITUDE, THAT THE *RAVAGER OF WORLDS* PRECEDES THE GALAXY MASTER!

"NONE DARES STAND AGAINST HIM! NONE CAN MATCH HIM IN POWER! NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE IS!"

HULK KNOWS!

WHAT, HULK? SPEAK HIS NAME, THAT WE MIGHT ALL KNOW OUR FOE!

SAME POWER THAT MADE HULK MADE *AB--ABOM...*

...ABOMINATION!

8

YES, HULK KNOWS HIM, HULK HAS FOUGHT HIM, HULK HAS BEAT HIM! *

OF ALL HULK'S FOES, HE IS THE STRONGEST!

*IF YOU THINK WE'RE GONNA CITE ALL THE ABOMINATION'S PAST APPEARANCES IN THIS TINY CAPTION, YOU'RE CRAZY! --AL.

INDEED, THOUGH THE BRUTISH BEHEMOTH BARELY REMEMBERS IT, THE ABOMINATION WAS EVEN MIGHTIER THAN THE HULK WHEN FIRST THEY MET.

ONLY BY SIPHONING AWAY SOME OF HIS GAMMA-POWER WAS BRUCE BANNER ABLE TO EVEN THE ODDS.

THEN YOU NOW UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE NEEDED, HULK! WE COULD NOT DEFEAT THE RAVAGER OF WORLDS!

ABOMINATION IS HIS NAME--NOT RAVAGER!

I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING ANOTHER GO AT THIS ABOMINATION! HE ONLY DROVE US OFF THE FIRST TIME BY SHEER LUCK!

AS I RECALL, AMPHIBION, 'TWAS WE WHO WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE!

BESIDES, XANTARIAN, IT WAS BUT A FEW MOMENTS AGO THAT WE HAD TO INTERCEDE TO SAVE YOU FROM THE HULK WHO MAY PROVE TO BE THE ABOMINATION'S INFERIOR!

PUT ASIDE YOUR PETTY QUARRELS! THE TWIN DANGER AWAITS US--THE GALAXY MASTER AND HIS SERVANT, THE ABOMINATION!

HULK WILL SMASH THEM BOTH!

NOT IF THEY SMASH YOU FIRST, GREENSKIN!

PRAY THAT THEY DON'T, AMPHIBION, FOR WE WOULD SOON FOLLOW.

ENOUGH! YOU WILL ALL GET THE CHANCE TO PROVE YOURSELVES, FOR YOU MUST FACE THE FOE UNITED--

--IF THE COSMOS IS TO SURVIVE!

HAVING ATTAINED WARP VELOCITY, THE SAGITTARIAN STARSHIP VANISHES INTO THE VOID...

9

...TO REAPPEAR UNTOLD LIGHT YEARS DISTANT AT A POINT IN SPACE WHERE THEIR SCANNERS HAVE TOLD THEM, ALL TOO CORRECTLY, THAT THEY SHALL CONFRONT THE GRUESOME GALAXY MASTER!

WELCOME, GNATS! I HAVE AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF MY FORMER SERVANTS WITH EAGERNESS!

OTHER RACES I HAVE SUBDUED --YOURS IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO DEVOUR!

TO THINK THAT MY LATE UNCLE WILLINGLY SERVED A CREATURE SUCH AS THE GALAXY MASTER! EVEN SURVIVAL WAS TOO HIGH A PRICE TO PAY!

READY THE REPULSE-SPHERES!

THEY ARE READY, EMPRESS!

THEN SEND THE HORROR-HUNTERS FORTH!

THIS, THEN, IS THE TITANIC TRIO'S NEW INCARNATION.

AS THE HULK-HUNTERS, THEY HUNTED THE HULK.

AS THE HORROR-HUNTERS, THEY GO FORTH TO FACE THE COMMON FOE.

AND HE ON WHOM ALL HOPES ARE PINNED, PREPARES A DIS-SIMILAR DEPARTURE...

WHY DOES HULK NOT GO TO FIGHT, WITH OTHERS?

THEY GO TO ENGAGE THE GALAXY MASTER, YOU GO TO CUT OFF HIS POWER AT ITS SOURCE!

WHERE IS SOURCE?

WHERE THE ABOMINATION WREAKS HAVOC, HULK!

PREPARE TO TRANSPORT DOWN!

BUT, EVEN AS THE TRANSPORTER IS ACTIVATED...

EMPRESS, THE GALAXY MASTER STRIKES!

ACTIVATED AND HOLDING!

WHAT OF OUR SHIELDS?

BUT THE BIOBURST HAS CAUSED A POWER OUTAGE--

--AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN THE HULK BEGAN TO BEAM DOWN!

10

FUNNEL ALL RESERVE POWER INTO SHIELDS! WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE, BUT THAT IS NOT OUR TASK!

DEFEATING THE *GALAXY MASTER* AND THE *ABOMINATION* FALLS SOLELY TO THE *HORROR-HUNTERS* AND THE *HULK* NOW!

TORGO REPORTS FROM THE LEAD *REPULSE-SPHERE*, EMPRESS!

WE ARE ABOUT TO ENGAGE THE GALAXY MASTER, MILADY! TODAY WILL BE THE TEST OF WHETHER THE COSMOS STANDS... OR FALLS.

BUT ALL HOPE LIES IN THE HULK DEFEATING THE ABOMINATION AND DEPRIVING THE GALAXY MASTER OF SUBSERVIENT WORLDS FROM WHICH TO DRAIN ENERGY--

--AND, DUE TO THE SUDDENNESS WITH WHICH THE GALAXY MASTER ATTACKED OUR SHIP JUST AS THE HULK WAS BEAMING AWAY--

--WE DO NOT *KNOW* WHETHER THE HULK HAS ARRIVED AT HIS DESTINATION--

--OR WHETHER HIS ATOMS WERE SCATTERED ACROSS THE VASTNESS OF SPACE!

FOR THE HULK, THAT CONJECTURE HAS NO RELEVANCE. ALL HE IS AWARE OF IS A LONG COLD MOMENT OF NOTHINGNESS ENDING IN THE WHITE HEAT OF RAGE...

...AS HE MATERIALIZES UPON A PLANET TURNED PURGATORY!

THOUGH THE CORPSES BEFORE HIM ARE ALIEN IN APPEARANCE, THE HULK RECOGNIZES THAT ONCE THEY WERE A FAMILY.

NOW THEY ARE MERELY... DEAD.

WHO COULD DO THIS THING?!

HULK WANTS TO KNOW, WHO?!?

SLAM

SPLAT

SKRAAK

THREE GUESSES, GREENSKIN!

12

ABOMINATION!

YOU GUESSED! YOU'RE NOT AS DUMB AS YOU LOOK, HULK--

--BUT, THEN, I LEARNED THAT BATTLING YOU ABOARD THAT RUNAWAY ROCKET THE LAST TIME WE MET! YOU MADE IT BACK TO EARTH AFTER THE BLASTED THING EXPLODED!*

ME, I DRIFTED IN THE VOID WHERE I WOULD HAVE DIED--IF THE *GALAXY MASTER* HADN'T FOUND ME!

THAT WAS MY LUCKY BREAK! REMEMBER HOW I WAS CREATED MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU HULK? I WOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU IF SOME WAY HADN'T BEEN FOUND TO *HALVE* MY POWER!**

*HULK # 194-196, AND ** TALES TO ASTONISH # 90-91--AL.

BUT THE GALAXY MASTER'S RESTORED ME TO MY ORIGINAL FIGHTING STRENGTH--AND ALL I HAVE TO DO TO *KEEP* MYSELF AT THAT LEVEL IS CONTINUE SUBDUING THE WORLDS HE WANTS TO SERVE *HIM!*

YOU DID THIS? FOR MOUTH-MONSTER?

LIKE I SAID, HULK--YOU CATCH ON REAL QUICK!

YES, HULK UNDERSTANDS NOW WHY EVERYONE SAID ONLY HULK HAD THE POWER TO STOP YOU!

13

YOU ARE STRONG, ABOMINATION--STRONG ENOUGH TO SMASH A WEAK WORLD, STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP TORGO, AMPHIBION AND DARK-CRAWLER!

THOSE CLOWNS? I SENT THEM SCURRYING, ALL RIGHT!

YES, YOU SENT THEM LOOKING FOR HULK BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT, NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE--

--HULK IS STRONGER!

MAYBE THAT WAS TRUE *ONCE*, JADE-JAW--

--BUT NOT ANYMORE!

SHAZAM!

BRAK!

YOU WEREN'T LISTENING WHEN I TOLD YOU THAT I'D GOTTEN ALL MY *ORIGINAL* POWER BACK!

MAN, I MANGLED YOU THEN, HULK-- AND I'M GOING TO MANGLE YOU NOW!

YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME NOW, HULK!

THWAM!

NO CHANCE AT ALL!

YOU ARE... STRONGER... THAN HULK... REMEMBERED! BUT... HULK WILL... SMASH YOU... STILL!

14

HULK, WHEN I GET DONE WITH YOU, THE WORD "SMASH" IS GOING TO BE ERASED FROM YOUR VOCABULARY--

KA-ROOM!

--BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN SMASHING LIKE I'M GOING TO SMASH YOU!!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL STATE OF THE ART SMASH-ING!

THE POOR PITI-FUL HULK--HE LOOKED STAGGERED THAT HE COULD BE STAGGERED!

BUT THAT BIG, GREEN GORILLA'S BEEN ON TOP TOO LONG!

HE HAD A FALL COMING SOONER OR LATER! HUH?! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

THE HULK'S GETTING UP!!

ABOMINATION, YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING ABOUT HULK. YOU MAY BE STRONGER NOW--

--BUT THE MADDER HULK GETS, THE STRONGER HULK GETS!

AND HULK IS MADDER THAN HULK HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE!

15

N-NO! THAT SHOULDN'T MATTER! THE GALAXY MASTER'S MADE ME *TWICE* AS STRONG AS YOU-- AT LEAST!

THEN WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY LOOK SCARED?

MAYBE YOU SEE THAT YOU COULD BE *TEN TIMES* STRONGER THAN HULK, AND IT STILL WOULD NOT MATTER--

GLLLKKK!

--NOT WHEN ALL HULK HAS TO DO IS BECOME *TEN TIMES AS MAD!!*

GALAXY MASTER-- HELP!!

AT THAT MOMENT, SOMEWHERE IN SPACE...

TORGO! DID YOU DETECT A SUDDEN WEAKENING IN THE GALAXY MASTER'S DEFENSES JUST THEN?

MORE LIKE A MOMENTARY LAPSE OF ATTENTION ON THE DEVOURER'S PART, DARK-CRAWLER, WHICH ALLOWED OUR ATTACK TO GET THROUGH.

CAN IT MEAN THAT THE HULK IS FULFILLING HIS PART OF THIS MISSION?

THE HULK? *BAH!* THE GALAXY MASTER WEAKENS BECAUSE HE BEGINS TO FEAR *OUR* POWER MAY PREVAIL!

WITHOUT HIS *RAVAGER OF WORLDS* TO SEND AGAINST US, HE KNOWS WE *MUST* TRIUMPH!

16

YOU ARE WILLFULLY IGNORANT, AMPHIBION! YOU CHOOSE TO FORGET THAT THE HULK WAS DISPATCHED TO ENGAGE THE ABOMINATION--

--PRECISELY SO THAT THE GALAXY MASTER'S POWER WOULD BE OVER-EXTENDED WHEN ***WE*** WENT FORTH TO FACE HIM!

LOOK! BEFORE WE CAN PRESS OUR ATTACK ANEW, SOMETHING STREAKS UPWARDS TOWARDS THE GALAXY MASTER FROM YONDER PLANET!

THAT "SOMETHING" IS OBSERVED ABOARD THE SAGITTARIAN STAR-SHIP AS WELL...

SCANNER REPORT! WHAT HAS THE GALAXY MASTER BROUGHT INTO THE BATTLE?

WE DETECT TWO ENTITIES WITHIN THE BEAM, EMPRESS--

--BOTH BURSTING WITH INCREDIBLE *GAMMA POWER!*

*THUS THE CRUSHING BLOW IN THIS BATTLE BETWEEN **GREEN GOLIATH** AND **GREEN GARGOYLE** IS DELIVERED NOT ON THE PLANET BELOW, WHERE THE BATTLE BEGAN...*

*...BUT ON A LONELY ASTEROID WHERE THE COMBATANTS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE **GALAXY MASTER.***

A RIPPLE OF FEAR PASSES THROUGH THAT MURDEROUS MAW, AS HE RECOGNIZES THE HULK!

HULK HAS WON, MOUTH-MONSTER! HULK HAS BEATEN YOUR SERVANT! NOT ALL YOUR POWER COULD HELP HIM AGAINST HULK!

AND NOW, MOUTH-MONSTER, HULK IS GOING TO BEAT YOU!

ABOMINATION, YOU HAVE FAILED ME! I GAVE YOU POWER TO BRING ME POWER-- NOT THE ONE FOE IN ALL THE COSMOS WHOM I FEAR!

I'LL STILL SERVE YOU, GALAXY MASTER! I WON'T GO AGAINST THE HULK AGAIN-- HE'D KILL ME!

17

BUT YOU'VE GOT OTHER ENEMIES--I CAN USE THE POWER YOU GAVE ME...TO DESTROY *THEM!*

BEFORE ANYONE CAN REACT, THE ABOMINATION HURLS HIMSELF FROM THE ASTEROID...

...TOWARDS THE REPULSE-SPHERE CONTAINING AMPHIBION.

AMPHIBION, WHO HAS ALREADY FALLEN BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE HULK...

...GOES DOWN EASILY TO DEFEAT BEFORE A POWER-BOOSTED ABOMINATION.

THERE! ONE OF YOUR ENEMIES LIES HUMBLED!

I'VE PROVEN MY WORTH--NOW LET ME KEEP MY POWER!

I CANNOT, ABOMINATION! I MUST SUMMON EVERY IOTA OF MY POWER TO ME--

--TO FACE THE *HULK!* YOU, I AM AFRAID, ARE ON YOUR OWN!

THEN LET US LEAVE THESE REPULSE-SPHERES, TORGO, AND LEAVE THE GALAXY MASTER TO OUR EMERALD ALLY, WHILE WE AVENGE AMPHIBION!

A COURSE OF ACTION WITH WHICH I WHOLE-HEARTEDLY CONCUR, DARK-CRAWLER.

TWO WHO I DEFEATED EARLIER COME TOWARDS ME--EVEN AS I FEEL MY POWER SLIPPING AWAY!

BUT I'M STILL *AS STRONG* AS THE HULK! I CAN STILL BEAT THEM!

THAT, ABOMINATION, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

18

NOW, MOUTH-MONSTER, THERE IS NO ONE BETWEEN US--

--NO ONE TO FEED YOU POWER--

--NO ONE BUT YOU AND HULK!

YOU ALMOST DESTROYED ME WHEN LAST WE FOUGHT! THE NOTHINGNESS OF THAT NEAR NON-EXISTENCE WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR AGAIN!

HULK REMEMBERS, MOUTH-MONSTER, THAT HULK BEAT YOU FROM *WITHIN!*

YES--YOU MANAGED TO PENETRATE THE FABRIC OF MY BEING! FROM SUCH AN ATTACK, I POSSESSED NO DEFENSE!

THIS TIME, HOWEVER, YOU SHALL NEVER GET CLOSE!

MOUTH-MONSTER BECOMES *BAT!*

I CAN TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO ANY SHAPE-- ASSUME ANY POWER!

BECOME WHAT YOU WANT-- AS POWERFUL AS YOU WANT-- *AND STILL HULK WILL SMASH!*

ARRGH! WITHOUT POWER FLOWING TO ME FROM SUB-SERVIENT WORLDS, THE ACTUAL TRANSFORMATIONS I ATTEMPT ARE THEMSELVES LIMITED IN POWER!

IS THAT WHY YOU BECOME SNAKE-THINGS AND WORM-THINGS?

THINGS HULK CAN SMASH!?!

19

IS THERE NOTHING YOU *CANNOT* SMASH?!?

NOTHING MOUTH-MONSTER!

NOTHING!!

KERRAK!

MY STRENGTH IS BEING DEPLETED! I HAVE POWER FOR ONE MORE ASSAULT UPON YOU!

'TIL NOW *I* HAVE TRANSFORMED TO MORE POWERFUL SHAPES!

I SENSE THE SECRET IN DEFEATING YOU LIES IN TRANSFORMING *YOU* INTO A *LESS* POWERFUL ENTITY!

*AT ONCE, GREEN **GAMMA RAYS** EMIT FROM THE GALAXY MASTER, AS HE TRIES TO USE THE VERY POWER THAT **CREATED** THE HULK TO **DESTROY** THE GREEN GOLIATH.*

ARRGHH!

HULK... *HURTS!*

BUT ANY POWER THAT CAN HURT *HULK,* MOUTH-MONSTER--

--CAN *ALSO HURT YOU!*

Y-YOU RESIST THE *GAMMA BOMBARDMENT?!*

WORSE, YOU DIRECT IT BACK AT ME-- *INTO* ME!

ON THE BRIDGE OF EMPRESS DAYDRA'S STARSHIP...

EMPRESS! OUR INSTRUMENTS DETECT THAT THE GALAXY MASTER HAS BEEN *MORTALLY WOUNDED!*

BUT WHAT OF THE HULK, HELMSWOMAN?

IF THE GALAXY MASTER SUFFERS SUCH PUNISHMENT, *WHAT OF THE HULK?!?*

20

HIS EVERY ATOM AFIRE AS THE GAMMA RADIATION FLOODS HIS CELLS...(IN A GREATER CONCENTRATION THAN HE HAS EVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE...)

...THE HULK NEVERTHELESS LEAPS TOWARDS THE MAW OF HIS MONSTROUS ENEMY...

...AN IRRADIATED ENGINE OF THE GALAXY MASTER'S DESTRUCTION.

AWK!

HEE

ARGGH! MY HEAD! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY HEAD??!

THE ABOMINATION REELS IN PAIN EVEN AS THE GALAXY MASTER VANISHES!

THAT'S IT-- I WAS TIED TO HIM-- MY POWER TO HIS POWER!

HE'S *DYING* AND HE'S TAKING *ME* WITH HIM! HELP!!

BUT THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN HELP THE ABOMINATION AS HE FALLS FROM THE ASTEROID INTO SPACE...

...AND CONTINUES.

MEANWHILE, THE HULK PASSES INSIDE THE GALAXY MASTER WHERE THE DEVOURER IS HELPLESS TO FIGHT HIM FOR FEAR OF HARMING HIMSELF...

...AND WHERE THE *GAMMA RAYS* BEING EMITTED BY THE HULK PLAY HAVOC WITH THE GALAXY MASTER'S SYSTEM.

21

IT IS MORE THAN HE CAN STAND.

EMPRESS! THE GALAXY MASTER IS *VANISHING* FROM OUR SCANNER-SCREENS!

OUR INSTRUMENTS NO LONGER RECORD HIS *PRESENCE!*

HE IS *GONE* AS THOUGH HE NEVER EXISTED!

-- THE *HULK* HAS DONE THIS! HE HAS GIVEN THE COSMOS THE GIFT OF *LIFE*--

--BUT AT WHAT *SACRI-FICE*?!

THE BATTLE BEING OVER...

...ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO PICK UP THE SUR-VIVORS.

AMPHIBION--?

HE LIVES-- THOUGH I FEAR HIS PRIDE WILL TAKE SOMEWHAT LONGER TO MEND THAN HIS BODY!

HE WILL RECOVER ON HIS OWN WORLD--A WORLD ASSURED OF SAFETY NOW THAT WE HAVE WON.

YES, TORGO--WE HAVE WON. THE GALAXY MASTER IS NO MORE.

BUT WHAT OF HE WHO SAVED US?

WHAT OF *THE INCREDIBLE HULK*?!

NEXT MONTH: GREENSKIN'S 20th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE INTRODUCES YOU TO THE CRAZIEST NEW CHARACTER IN THIS, THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS! GET READY FOR

ROCKET RACCOON! *(AND FRIENDS)*

60¢ 271 MAY 02456

©1981 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TM

WHAT?! HULK HAS TO SHARE HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE WITH PUNY TALKING ANIMAL?

YOU GOT IT, JADE JAWS! MOVE OVER AND MAKE WAY FOR...

ROCKET RACCOON!

MILGROM '81

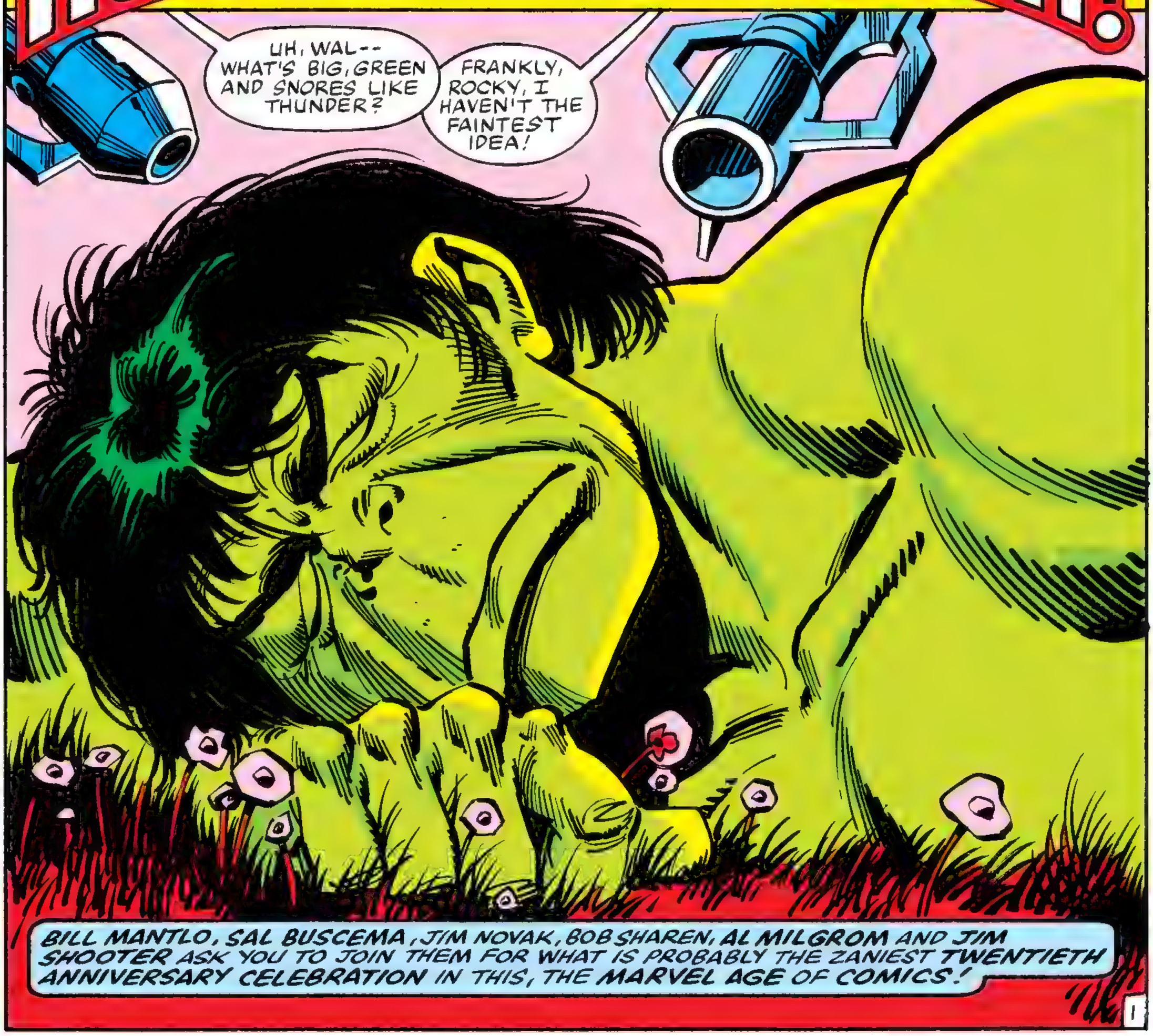
NOW SOMEWHERE

IN THE BLACK HOLES OF

SIRIUS MAJOR THERE LIVED A

YOUNG BOY NAME OF...

ROCKET RACCOON!


UH, WAL-- WHAT'S BIG, GREEN AND SNORES LIKE THUNDER?
FRANKLY, ROCKY, I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA!
BILL MANTLO, SAL BUSCEMA, JIM NOVAK, BOB SHAREN, AL MILGROM AND JIM SHOOTER ASK YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR WHAT IS PROBABLY THE ZANIEST TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN THIS, THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!
1

AS THE HULK REPOSES ON THE ALIEN REDSWARD, TWO STRANGE FIGURES CONDUCT A CAUTIOUS EXAMINATION OF THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH.

ALL I WANNA KNOW, WAL, IS--IS HE ONE O' JUDSON JAKES' AUTOMATON ASSASSINS?

NEGATIVE, ROCKY! WHATEVER HE IS, HE'S ALIVE--

--AND BURSTING WITH AN INCREDIBLE CONCENTRATION OF GAMMA RADIATION!

THE PAIR ARE ROCKET RACCOON, GUARDIAN OF THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT...

...AND HIS FRIEND AND FIRST MATE, WAL RUSS.

SUDDENLY, ROCKET'S EARS DETECT A SUBTLE SOUND...

SNIKKERSNAK SNIKKERSNAK

WAL! A YOU-KNOW-WHAT'S COMIN'!

DO WE LEAVE THE GREEN ONE IN ITS PATH?

NO! SINCE HE'S ALIVE, WE GOTTA MOVE HIM! GIMME AN :UNGHH!: PROSTHETIC!

WALDOES--MECHANICAL ARMS--SNAKE FROM WAL RUSS'S POUCH...

...BUT NOT EVEN THEIR POWER PROVES ENOUGH TO BUDGE A HALF-TON, SLEEPING HULK.

SNIKKERSNAK SNIKKERSNAK

WE AIN'T GETTIN' ANYWHERE, WAL!

AND THE YOU-KNOW-WHAT IS GETTING CLOSER, ROCKET!

SNIKKERSNAK SNIKKERSNAK

CORRECTION, WAL: THE ROBOMOWER IS HERE!

EGAD, ROCKET--YOU'RE RIGHT!

2

THAT'S WHY I'M THE **CAPTAIN** OF THIS CREW AND YOU'RE THE **FIRST MATE!**

YOU'RE CAPTAIN BECAUSE WE'RE FLYING **YOUR SHIP!**

RIGHT!

GUARD THAT--THAT **HULK**, WAL! I'M GONNA TRY AND TURN THE ROBOMOWER ASIDE!

STREAKING AT THE APPROACHING AUTOMATON ON SLEEK SILVER **ROCKET SKATES**, ROCKET RACCOON UNHOLSTERS HIS **ROCKETMATIC PISTOL** AND UNLEASHES LETHAL LASER-FIRE!

EAT HOT LIGHT, ROBOT!

ZREET ZREET

SNIKKER SNAK SNIKKER SNAK

ROBOMOWER'S REFRACTIN' MY LASER-FIRE!

I'D BE BETTER OFF WITH A **WATER** PISTOL!

MAYBE I COULD INDUCE **RUST!**

SNIKKERSNIKKER

GEEPS!

ALMOST HAD MY CLAWS CLIPPED!

SKLANG!

I'M NOT PACKIN' ENOUGH LASER-POWER TO DRIVE THAT AUTOMATON BACK TO ITS OWN TERRITORY!

TIME FOR A NEW STRATEGY!

RUNNING!

ZREET

LET'S HIGHTAIL IT, WAL! OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO REACH OUR SHIP!

YOUR SHIP, YOU MEAN!

WAL, PLEASE! THE SHIP'S CARRYIN' BIG GUNS!

WE'VE GOTTA BRING 'EM UP AN' USE 'EM BEFORE THE ROBOMOWER'S BLADES MAKE HAMBURGER OUTTA THAT...

HULK!

J-JUST WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO SAY!

ROCKY, **LOOK!**

3

NOISE WOKE HULK UP! HULK DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE UP! NOW HULK IS *MAD!*

WHAT DID HE SAY, ROCKY?

HE SAID HE'S MAD, WAL!

Y'KNOW, HE *LOOKS* MAD!

HE DOES, DOESN'T HE?

"BUT BEING MAD WON'T STOP A RUNAWAY ROBOMOWER!"

"YOU TELL *HIM* THAT, WAL!"

MACHINE MADE NOISE THAT WOKE HULK UP!

HULK WILL SMASH MACHINE!

SKRAKOW!

YOU *LIKE* MAKING NOISE, MACHINE?

HULK WILL MAKE MORE NOISE THAN YOU EVER *COULD!*

SRAVRAKK!

SNI-KER-SNAK-KER-SNIK-KER-SNAK-KER

GET READY, MACHINE!

HERE COMES THE BIGGEST NOISE OF ALL!

SKROOM!

HUNH! GOOD! NOISE HAS STOPPED! BUT HULK IS NOT TIRED ANYMORE!

WAL, D-DID YOU SEE WHAT HE DID?

I SAW, ROCKY! I SAW!

HE STOPPED A *ROBOMOWER* WITH HIS *BARE HANDS!*

I SAID, I SAW!

4

WHERE *IS* HULK? WHO ARE FUNNY TALKING ANIMALS? WHAT IS GOING *ON*?!

THAT'S JUST WHAT WE WERE GOING TO ASK YOU, TALL, GREEN AND GRUESOME!

UH, ROCK-ET...

WAL, CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M DEEPLY ENGROSSED IN CONVERSATION WITH OUR GREEN GUEST?

WELL, GET *UN*EN-GROSSED! I JUST GOT A TINGLE ON MY *FUZZ-DETECTOR!*

PING-A-LING

FUZZ? WHAT ARE "FUZZ?"

BULLS, HULK! JOHN-LAW! POLICE! THE *COPS!*

THE ROBO-MOWER MUST HAVE GOT-TEN OFF AN ALARM!

HULK IS NOT AFRAID OF POLICE!

NEITHER ARE *WE*, HULK...

STOP--

--IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!

THAT'S US!

LOOK OUT!

"... IT'S JUST THAT WE HAVE MUCH TO DO, AND LITTLE TIME TO WASTE WHEN IT COMES TO *THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT KOPS!*"

WE'VE JUST RUN OVER THE VICTIM!

BOOK HIM!

HE'S IN-TERFERING WITH THE COURSE OF JUSTICE!

HE'S NOT A *HIM*-- HE'S AN *IT!*

THOSE ARE... *POLICE??!*

WELL, LOOSELY SPEAKING, THEIR PURPOSE IS TO PRESERVE LAW AND DISORDER!

WHICH THEY DO TO IMPERFECTION!

SUMMON OUR SHIP, WAL!

YOUR SHIP!

LOOK, JUST BECAUSE *I* MADE THE PAYMENTS DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T CO-OWN THE BLASTED SHIP!

IS THAT WHY IT'S CALLED *RAKK'N'RUIN* AND NOT THE *WAILING WAL?*

5

I CAN'T HELP IT IF *RAKK* AND *ROCKET* ARE ALLITERATIVE! I DIDN'T NAME THE SHIP--*LYLLA* DID!

SHE'S *YOUR* GIRLFRIEND!

GEEPS! SHE'S *YOUR* NIECE!

WHAT ARE TALKING ANIMALS ARGUING ABOUT?

OH, VARIOUS SUNDRIES--

VROAR

--WHILE *I* PREPARE TO LAUNCH *HIS* SHIP!

BLAST-OFF!

ROBO-SLAUGHTER-ERS!

MOWER-MURDERERS!

TRAFFIC-VIOLATERS!

SOMEBODY GET THEIR LICENSE NUMBER!

*DESPITE THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT KOPS' PROTESTATIONS, THE **RAKK-'N'-RUIN** TAKES TO THE SKY.*

WELL, HULK, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY AND CONFUSED--

FOOD 'N' STUFF

--SO ALLOW ME TO FEED YOU BEFORE I WELCOME YOU ABOARD THE TRUSTY *RAKK'N'RUIN!*

PTUI!

DINNER IS SERVED, MASTER ROCKET!

THANKS, SHIP!

SOON... FOOD IS ALMOST GONE, BUT HULK STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HULK IS, OR HOW HULK GOT HERE!

WE CAN'T HELP YOU WITH THE SECOND, HULK, YOU SEEMED TO APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE!

BUT PART ONE IS EASY: WE FOUND YOU ON *HALF-WORLD*, HULK--

"--LARGEST PLANET IN THE STAR SYSTEM KNOWN AS *THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT!*"

IMAGES FLASH ON THE MONITOR-SCREENS OF THE RAKK'N'RUIN.

VERY STRANGE IMAGES!

6

HUNH! HULK HAS NEVER SEEN WORLD WITH A WALL AROUND IT BEFORE!

THE *GALACIAN WALL* SURROUNDS THE ENTIRE KEYSTONE QUADRANT, HULK. IT'S INCREDIBLY ANCIENT--NO ONE KNOWS WHO BUILT IT.

WE ONLY KNOW *WHY*: IT'S PURPOSE IS TO KEEP EVERYONE IN THE QUADRANT *IN*--AND EVERYONE OUTSIDE THE QUADRANT *OUT*!

HULK GOT IN!

YEAH, YOU DID! ANY IDEA HOW?

ALL HULK REMEMBERS IS BEING INSIDE *GALAXY MASTER*,* AND THEN WAKING UP ON RED GRASS!

*LAST ISH--AL.

RIGHT! NOW, AS I WAS SAYING--

"...THE WALL ENCIRCLES THE WHOLE QUADRANT! *HALF-WORLD*--WHERE YOU WOKE UP--IS WHERE WAL AND I HAIL FROM!

"WHY'S IT CALLED *HALFWORLD*, YOU ASK?

"BECAUSE *HALF* OF IT IS STRIPPED BARE--AN INDUSTRIAL WASTELAND WHERE AUTOMATONS LABOR AS THEY'VE LABORED FOREVER ON A GIANT HUMANOID SPACECRAFT KNOWN ONLY AS *SHIP*!

"THE *OTHER* HALF IS A PARADISE PLANET WHERE WE ANIMALS PLAY AND FARM WITH MACHINES THE AUTOMATONS GIVE US...

"...'CAUSE THEY CAN'T HELP MAKIN' EM, AND CAN'T USE 'EM ONCE THEY DO!

ARE THERE NO PUNY HUMANS ON PLANET?

ONLY THE *KEYSTONE KOPS*, HULK--*'HUMAN'* IS A WORD I'VE HEARD THEM CALL THEMSELVES. I ALWAYS ASSUMED IT SIGNIFIED SOME DERANGED SPECIES OF ANIMAL.

IF THERE ARE POLICE, THERE MUST BE TROUBLE!

YOU CAN BET YOUR EMERALD EYES THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE QUADRANT, HULK!

7

"AND IT ALL STEMS FROM A MURDEROUS MOLE NAME OF ***JUDSON JAKES!*** NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HE'S UP TO, EXCEPT THAT HE SITS IN THE CENTER OF THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT ABOARD HIS ***SPACEWHEEL*** LIKE A FAT SPIDER IN THE MIDDLE OF A WEB!

"JAKES HEADS A COMPANY CALLED ***INTER-STEL MECHANICS*** WHOSE CHIEF SCIENTIST, A TORTOISE NAME OF ***UNCLE PYKO***, TURNS OUT ***AUTOMATON ASSASSINS*** LIKE THE ***KILLER CLOWNS*** AN' THE DREAD ***DRAKILLARS***, AN' HIRES RENEGADE RABBITS, LIKE ***THE BLACK BUNNY BRIGADE***, TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK!"

SO?

SO JAKES IS MAKIN' ALL THESE MACHINE-MARAUDERS FOR ONE PURPOSE ONLY, HULK! HE WANTS TO GET HIS PAWS ON THE GREATEST TREASURE IN THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT!

A BOOK CALLED ***GIDEON'S BIBLE!***

WRITTEN BY THE ***FIRSTCOMERS***, IT'S SUPPOSED TO HOLD THE SECRET ORIGIN OF THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT AND ITS INHABITANTS ON ITS PAGES!

BUT IT IS WRITTEN IN A LANGUAGE WHICH NO ONE CAN READ.

UH, ROCKET...

...WE'RE GETTING AN ***EMERGENCY ALERT*** FROM LYLLA!

THERE'S HAVOC ON HALFWORLD!

A TERRIBLE IMAGE FILLS THE MONITOR-SCREEN.

CUCKOO'S NEST TO ***RAKK'N'RUIN***-- THE BLACK BUNNY BRIGADE HAS LAUNCHED AN ATTACK!

WHAT IS... CUCKOO'S NEST?

THAT'S WHERE GIDEON'S BIBLE IS KEPT, HULK!

WE NEVER THOUGHT JUDSON JAKES WOULD DARE ATTACK OUR STRONGHOLD!

WELL HE HAS--AND IF HE SEIZES GIDEON'S BIBLE AND GETS UNCLE PYKO TO DECIPHER IT, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT TERRIBLE SECRETS HE'LL LEARN, WHAT AWFUL FATE HE'LL UNLEASH ON THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT!

TO STOP HIM, WE'LL HAVE TO GO UP AGAINST JAKES HIMSELF!

HULK-- WILL YOU HELP US?!

HULK IS HERE BECAUSE HE HELPED SOMEONE ELSE!

HULK HAD TO LEAVE HIS FRIENDS BACK ON EARTH!

RICK AND BETTY WILL WORRY ABOUT HULK! HULK SHOULD GET HOME! BUT HULK'S HEAD FEELS SO STRANGE, HULK DOESN'T KNOW ***WHAT*** TO DO!

WHY OUR JADE GIANT FEELS STRANGE IS A TOPIC WE'LL DELVE INTO NEXT MONTH.

MEANWHILE, LET US CAST OUR GAZE BRIEFLY EARTHWARD...

...TO A FORSAKEN STRETCH OF DESERT WHERE, YEARS BEFORE, IN A BLAZE OF GAMMA-GREEN FIRE, THE HULK WAS BORN.

THE ONLY FIRE NOW COMES FROM THE SUN.

BUT NOT EVEN THE SUN'S RAYS CAN PENETRATE THE DARK FASTNESS OF THE CAVE COMPLEX BENEATH THE DESERT SANDS...

...WHERE, UNTIL RECENTLY, DR. BRUCE BANNER LABORED TO KILL OR CURE HIS EMERALD ALTER-EGO.

THEN CAME THE HULK-HUNTERS SEEKING THE HULK'S HELP AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF THE GALAXY MASTER AND HIS SAVAGE SERVANT, THE ABOMINATION! BANNER BECAME THE HULK, FOUGHT THE HULK-HUNTERS, AND THEN ACCOMPANIED THEM ON A QUEST TO THE FAR REACHES OF THE COSMOS.*

HE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT, IN HIS WAKE, RICK JONES HAD SUBJECTED HIMSELF TO A DEADLY DOSE OF GAMMA RAYS IN A MAD ATTEMPT TO MAKE OF HIMSELF A SECOND HULK!

RICK ALMOST DIED, THAT LEFT BETTY ROSS ALONE TO DEAL WITH THE DESPERATE NEED TO GET RICK TO A HOSPITAL...

...AND THE COMING OF THE KRYLORIAN BIRD-WOMAN, BEREET!

WH-WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME ARE YOU ?!?

I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU. I AM BEREET, TECHNO-ARTIST FROM THE PLANET KRYLOR. I HAVE COME TO MAKE A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

GREEPLE REEP?

A PITY IT MUST BEGIN WITH THE DEATH-SCENE OF THE HULK'S CLOSEST FRIEND!

HUSH, STURKY-- THIS IS A SOMBER MOMENT!

WE MUST OBSERVE THE PROPER SOLEMNITIES, AND THEN BEGIN FILMING.

9

GIVEN WHAT SHE HAS GONE THROUGH IN THE PAST FEW HOURS, BEREET'S ANNOUNCEMENT IS MORE THAN BETTY CAN BEAR.

Y-YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP ME *SAVE* RICK?!

YOU'RE GOING TO STAND BY AND WATCH HIM DIE?!

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A MOVIE OF IT?!?!

REEP!

YES, STURKY-- SHE IS DISTRAUGHT. CALM HER.

REEP

GREEPLE SPOK*

ALL RIGHT, I'M IN CONTROL AGAIN. NOW YOU LISTEN...

RICK JONES HAS SUBJECTED HIMSELF TO A MASSIVE DOSAGE OF GAMMA RADIATION -- THE SAME RADIATION THAT TURNED BRUCE BANNER INTO THE HULK. ALL IT'S DONE TO RICK IS NEARLY KILL HIM.

HE NEEDS TO GET TO A DOCTOR.

AND YOU WANT MY HELP? OH, MY...

... THAT DOES COMPLICATE THINGS, YOU SEE, I'M HERE TO FILM A DOCUMENTARY.

KRYLORIAN ENTERTAINMENT CODE XV-III EXPRESSLY FORBIDS TECHNO-ARTISTS FROM INTERFERING IN THE COURSE OF THEIR NON-FICTION FILMS.

HOWEVER, KRYLORIAN TECHNO-ARTISTS ARE KNOWN FOR IGNORING ENTERTAINMENT CODE XV-III

BEREET REACHES INTO THE BAG AT HER HIP...

...AND OUT COMES A SPIDERY SOMETHING THAT GROWS IN SIZE UNTIL IT ALL BUT ENCOMPASSES THE UNCONSCIOUS RICK.

10

THE *LIFE SUPPORT SPIDER* WILL STABILIZE RICK'S CONDITION. HE WILL GROW NO BETTER, BUT HE WILL ALSO GROW NO WORSE.

YOU SAID YOU *KNEW* RICK AND THE HULK. HOW?

MANY YEARS AGO I MADE A FILM WITH THEM. IT WAS HAILED AS A MASTER-PIECE ON KRYLOR.*

*IT WAS ALSO THE SUBJECT OF *RAMPAGING HULK* #1-9--ARCHIVAL AL.

AT THAT POINT, RICK RE-VIVES AND WHISPERS...

B-BETTY... NEVER SAW... THIS GEEK... IN MY LIFE.

...AND THEN LAPSES INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS AGAIN.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, HIS WORDS ARE THE *LAST* THING BETTY ROSS NEEDS TO HEAR.

REEP

WELL, STURKY, THIS DOES POSE A PROBLEM.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT...

...WE'VE COME HALFWAY 'ROUND HALFWORLD, HULK--

--AND THERE'S *CUCKOO'S NEST* DEAD-AHEAD!

THE MOUND-COMPOUND IS SINISTERLY SILENT. UNCONSCIOUS ANIMALS LIE STREWN ABOUT.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?

THE WORST, HULK!

THE *BLACK BUNNY BRIGADE!*

ROCKY, *STINKER* SEEKS TO SPEAK!

STINKER, OLD PAL! WE CAME AS SOON AS WE COULD! WHERE'S *LYLLA?*

T-TAKEN, ROCKY...

...ALONG WITH... *GIDEON'S BIBLE!*

TAKEN? WHERE?!

ONLY ONE PLACE, WAL-- TO *SPACE-WHEEL...* AND TO *JUDSON JAKES!*

MURDER DARKENS ROCKET RACCOON'S EYES.

11

SPACEWHEEL!

ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND IT GOES...

...AND WHERE IT STOPS, ONLY JUDSON JAKES KNOWS!

I MUST REMEMBER TO HAVE UNCLE PYKO STABILIZE SPACEWHEEL'S SPIN. APPARENTLY, THE ENTIRE CREW IS SUFFERING FROM VERTIGO.

I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT--JUST AS SOON AS I DECIPHER THIS INDECIPHERABLE TOME YOU HAD YOUR HENCH-RABBIT HIJACK!

QUIT COMPLAININ', PYKO! YOU GOT A CUSH DESK JOB UP HERE ON SPACEWHEEL, WHILE BLACKJACK O'HARE AND HIS BLACK BUNNY BRIGADE DO ALL THE DIRTY WORK!

PRESENT COMPANY EXCEPTED, LYLLA, DARLIN'!

UNHAND ME, YOU WRETCHED RABBIT! WHEN MY ROCKY GETS HERE--!

GIDEON'S BIBLE

HE WILL RECEIVE THE WARMEST OF WELCOMES, MY DEAR!

AND COME HE WILL, FOR HE IS THE SWORN GUARDIAN OF GIDEON'S BIBLE...

...THE BOOK WHOSE SECRETS WILL MAKE ME MASTER OF THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT!

YOU MEAN THE BOOK THAT'S GOING TO GIVE ME AND MY COMPUTERS EYESTRAIN? THIS THING DON'T MAKE SENSE!

FUNNY LETTERS! INCOMPREHENSIBLE ALPHABET! A GOBBLEDYGOOK OF GRAMMATICAL ERRORS! WHAT KIND OF LANGUAGE DID THE FIRSTCOMERS SPEAK?

THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I EXPECT YOU TO DISCOVER, PYKO.

AND, PLEASE, YOUR FEIGNED IGNORANCE INSULTS MY INTELLIGENCE. YOU ARE A GENIUS, UNCLE. IT WAS YOU WHO BUILT SPACEWHEEL.

IF YA ASK ME, HE KNOWS MORE'N IS GOOD FOR HIM!

OH! WHAT'S THAT HORRIBLE CREATURE?!

JUST A DRAKILLAR, MY DEAR--ONE OF THE COUNTLESS SENTRIES I HAVE POSTED THROUGHOUT THE QUADRANT.

IT IS TELEPATHICALLY TELLING ME THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND HAS ARRIVED!

12

HOW FORTUNATE ROCKET CHOSE TO DROP IN TODAY! WE'VE A SPECIAL TREAT FOR HIM, HAVEN'T WE, PYKO?

THE *CIRCUS* IS IN TOWN!

DO SEND IN THE *CLOWNS*, UNCLE, ON YOUR WAY BACK TO YOUR LABOR-ATORY!

THAT OLD SNAIL-SLOW SCIENTIST? WHY DON'TCHA LET ME COOK HIM IN HIS SHELL, BOSS?

CAN *YOU* DECIPHER *GIDEON'S BIBLE*, RABBIT?

UH, I ONCE SKIMMED A PAMPHLET ON TORTURE TECHNIQUES!

DELIGHTFUL BEDTIME READING, I WAGER!

OH, ROCKET-- PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

CAUTIOUSLY, THE *RAKK'N'RUIN* DRAWS NEAR THE SPINNING *SPACEWHEEL*.

THERE SHE BLOWS, WAL--JUDSON JAKES'S *MURDER-GO-ROUND!*

I KNOW. I PILOTED US HERE.

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT --A MEDAL? I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOTTA BLAST IN AN' GET LYLLA OUT!

HULK HAS MADE UP HIS MIND. HULK WILL HELP.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, SPINACH-SKIN--

"--'CAUSE HERE COMES THE WEL-COME WAGON! UNCLE PYKO'S *KIL-LER CLOWNS!*"

CYBORG ASSASSINS, THEY SKIP ACROSS SPACE ON SILENT ROCKET-SKATES, THEIR GAY GARB BETOKENING NOT MERRIMENT...

13

...BUT MURDER!

DESPITE ITS DEFENSE-SCREENS, THE RAKK'N'RUIN IS SHOCKED, RATTLED AND ROLLED!

THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!

HULK WANTS TO GO OUT AND SMASH STUPID CLOWNS!

I DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT A SPACESUIT THAT WOULD FIT YOU, HULK!

NO, BUT WE'VE GOT A JUMBO-SIZED HELMET!

I'M BETTING THE HULK'S SKIN IS TOUGH ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE COLD OF SPACE.

WAIT, HULK! LET ME TURN ON YOUR *INTER-COMMUNICATOR!*

HULK SAID, HULK IS NOT AFRAID OF SPACE!

THAT'S GOOD, GREEN-GUY--'CAUSE INTO *SPACE* IS WHERE WE'RE GOING, TO KAYO THOSE *KILLER CLOWNS!*

...AND NOW, IN CENTER RING, *ROCKET RACCOON...*

14

...AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

CLOWN'S TRIED TO HURT HULK'S FRIENDS!

HULK DOES NOT THINK CLOWNS ARE FUNNY!

HULK WILL SMASH!

YES, HE'S GOOD AT THAT!

BUT, WHEN ONE IS AS POWERFUL AS THE HULK, ONE PAYS VERY LITTLE ATTENTION TO SUCH STANDARD PRECAUTIONARY PROCEDURES...

...AS GUARDING ONE'S BACK!

ANY MORE CLOWNS FOR HULK TO SMASH?!

HUNH?!

I NEVER COULD STAND A SNEAK, JADE-JAWS!

ROCKET SHOOTS GOOD!

ROCKET'S MY NAME, SHOOTIN'S MY GAME!

LOOK OUT! THERE IS ANOTHER CLOWN BEHIND *YOU*!

15

THE HULK'S CRY OF WARNING COMES A TAD TOO LATE, FOR THE **LEADER** OF THE **KILLER CLOWNS** IS ALREADY UPON OUR RIGHTEOUS RACCOON!

A GREAT PRIZE AWAITS THE ONE WHO SLAYS YOU, RODENT!

THE PRIZE OF **LIFE** -- TO CEASE BEING A COLD CYBORG KILLING MACHINE...

...AND BECOME INSTEAD A **LIVING BEING!**

A LIFE FOR A DEATH, CLOWN? CUTE TRADE!

GEEPS! **LASER CONTACT-LENSES** TRYING TO OPEN MY HELMET! **HELP!!**

HELP IS AT HAND...

RAARRHH!

HULK! THANKS A LOT!

DID ROCKET THINK THAT HULK WOULD LET CLOWN KILL HIM?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, GREENSKIN, RATIONAL THOUGHT GAVE WAY TO PANIC AS THOSE LASERS STARTED TO SIZZLE MY HELMET! THIS IS ONE RACCOON WHO LIKES **BREATHING!**

CLOWNS ARE ALL GONE! NOW WHAT DO HULK AND ROCKET DO?

THE JOB WE CAME FOR, SPINACH-SKIN!

WE ENTER **SPACEWHEEL** TO SAVE **LYLLA** AND **GIDEON'S BIBLE**... AND WE DON'T COME BACK WITHOUT 'EM!

QUESTION IS: **HOW DO WE GET IN??!**

16

LEAVE THAT TO *HULK!*

PUHWRAKK!

CERTAINLY! ANY TIME!

NOW THAT WE'RE IN, WHERE DO WE FIND ROCKET'S GIRLFRIEND AND MYSTERY BOOK?

BEATS ME! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SORT OF ***FERA NON GRATA*** ABOARD SPACEWHEEL!

GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PEEK IN DOORS!

THERE'S LAWS AGAINST ***PEEPIN' TOMS***, RODENT!

THERE--WITH LYLLA! IT'S ***BLACKJACK O'HARE!***

WHO--?

LEADER OF THE ***BLACK BUNNY BRIGADE!***

RIGHT! YOU CAN TAKE OFF YOUR FISHBOWL, ROCKET-- PYKO'S ***SERVODROIDS*** HAVE ALREADY REPAIRED THE HOLE YOUR FRIEND PUNCHED IN SPACEWHEEL!

NOW, SURRENDER, OR THERE'LL BE OTTER BRAINS ALL OVER THE BULKHEAD!

I... YOU DON'T LEAVE ME MUCH CHOICE, RABBIT!

MUCH CHOICE? RACCOON, I DON'T LEAVE YOU ***ANY CHOICE!***

I'M NOT FOOL ENOUGH TO TAKE CHANCES WITH THE ***FASTEST GUN*** IN THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT!

RUN, ROCKET! ***RUN!***

SURE! RUN! I DON'T MIND SHOOTIN' YA IN THE BACK!

NO! RABBIT WILL NOT SHOOT ANYBODY!

HULK, DON'T! HE'LL KILL LYLLA! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN REACH HIM FROM HERE--!

HULK DOES NOT HAVE TO ***REACH*** RABBIT TO ***STOP*** HIM!

WHOM!

17

SEE?

YOIKS!

KEEP IN MIND, BLACKJACK: NOBODY KNOWS YOU WHEN YOU'RE DOWN:

...AND OUT!

SPOK!

OH, ROCKY--I DO WISH YOU WOULD TAKE OFF THAT SILLY HELMET, SO I COULD KISS YOU!

LATER, LYLLA! WE STILL HAVE TO RETRIEVE *GIDEON'S BIBLE* AND GET BACK TO THE RAKK-'N'RUIN!

FOLLOW US, HULK!

THE HULK STARTS TO FOLLOW...

...BUT HALFWAY DOWN THE CORRIDOR A FAMILIAR GREEN GLOW CATCHES HIS EMERALD EYE.

COME IN, MY FRIEND! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

HUNH?

YOU ARE... TURTLE?!

INDUBITABLY, PYKO'S THE NAME... ***UNCLE PYKO.*** BY THE WAY: RECOGNIZE THE PLANET ON MY VIEWSCREEN?

HOME! HULK'S HOME!!

AH, RIGHT AGAIN! I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE!

BUT THEN, I'M RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING--AS MY EMPLOYER JUDSON JAKES, WILL ONE DAY LEARN TO HIS INFINITE SORROW.

BUT THAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, DOES IT? NO, YOU JUST WANT TO GO HOME--TO ***EARTH!*** WELL, I CAN ARRANGE IT, TO THE MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF US BOTH!

18

AS OUR GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH STRUGGLES TO UNDERSTAND THE PUZZLING PYKO, ROCKET RACCOON AND LYLLA FIND THE LAIR OF...

JUDSON JAKES!

BEYOND A DOUBT, A MOST GRACIOUS WELCOME, FRIEND ROCKET, TO MY HUMBLE ABODE.

CUT THE COMEDY, MOLE--AND HAND OVER THE BOOK!

BOOK? WHICH BOOK? I HAVE SO MANY--

--AND SO LITTLE TIME TO READ WITH ALL THESE INTERRUPTIONS! DRAKILLAR! BID MY UNINVITED GUESTS DEPART...

...THAT I MIGHT CONTINUE MY MEDITATIONS.

SSKREEE

A NEW-BEAST--CREATED IN OLD UNCLE PYKO'S LAB!

MUST'VE BEEN A HARMLESS LITTLE BAT ONCE--

VREET

--CURSE UNCLE PYKO!

AND CURSE YOU, MOLE, FOR MAKING ME SHOOT DOWN SOMETHING THAT WAS ONCE ONE OF OUR OWN KIND!

YOUR KIND, YOU MEAN, RACCOON! I AM JUDSON JAKES--I AM BEYOND THE MERE ANIMAL EXISTENCE WHICH YOU SO ARDENTLY PROTECT!

YEAH? SO FAR BEYOND IT THAT YOU'LL THREATEN IT ALL WITH WHATEVER SECRETS YOU FIND IN GIDEON'S BIBLE, HUH?

ROCKY, LOOK OUT!

IT'S A DRAKILLAR!

THE BOOK, MOLE! I WANT IT NOW--OR ELSE YOU'RE GONNA BECOME SEVERELY DECOMPRESSED!

NO! DON'T DAMAGE SPACEWHEEL!

I'LL SUMMON PYKO!

19

AND, IN UNCLE PYKO'S LABORATORY...

BRRZZZT

AH, THE MASTER OF SPACEWHEEL SUMMONS! HE MUST HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED DEFEAT, AS I KNEW HE WOULD!

I KNOW SO MANY THINGS I SHOULDN'T KNOW, HULK--SUCH AS WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU CAME FROM, ETCETERA.

PLANET ON SCREEN IS *EARTH*, HULK'S HOME.

THAT IS WHERE HULK'S FRIENDS--*RICK* AND *BETTY*--WAIT FOR HULK!

CAN TALKING TURTLE SEND HULK HOME?

OF COURSE! THE *GALACIAN WALL* SURROUNDING THE *KEYSTONE QUADRANT* PREVENTS ITS INHABITANTS FROM EVER LEAVING THIS MADHOUSE UNIVERSE--

--BUT NO BARRIER IS INSUPERABLE TO ONE WHO HAS FATHOMED THE SECRETS OF THE *FIRST-COMERS*; TO ONE WHO COMPREHENDS THE MYSTERIES OF *GIDEON'S BIBLE!*

HULK THOUGHT THAT NO ONE COULD READ MYSTERY BOOK.

NO ONE BUT ME, HULK, AND EVEN *I* DISCOVERED HOW QUITE BY ACCIDENT...

...FROM DEEPLY-SUBMERGED MEMORIES WHICH I DREDGED FORTH ONE DAY WHEN I WAS PROBING THE ADDLED BRAIN OF A *KEYSTONE COP*. POOR CREATURE! HE DIDN'T SURVIVE THE PROBE!

IT SEEMS THAT THOSE LOONY-TUNE COPS ARE DIRECTLY DESCENDED FROM THE *FIRST-COMERS*--

--AS ARE *YOU*, HULK! THAT'S HOW I DEDUCED WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND HOW TO SEND YOU BACK!

AND YOU *MUST* GO HOME, HULK! THERE'S A BALANCE OF POWER HERE IN THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT BETWEEN MY TECHNOLOGY--

--AND ROCKET RACCOON AND THE OTHER ANIMALS. YOUR MIGHT WOULD TIP THE SCALES IN THEIR FAVOR. I CAN'T ALLOW THAT, SO I'M SENDING YOU HOME.

ALL HULK KNOWS IS THAT HULK DOESN'T BELONG HERE! SEND HULK HOME, TALKING TURTLE!

A SWITCH IS THROWN...

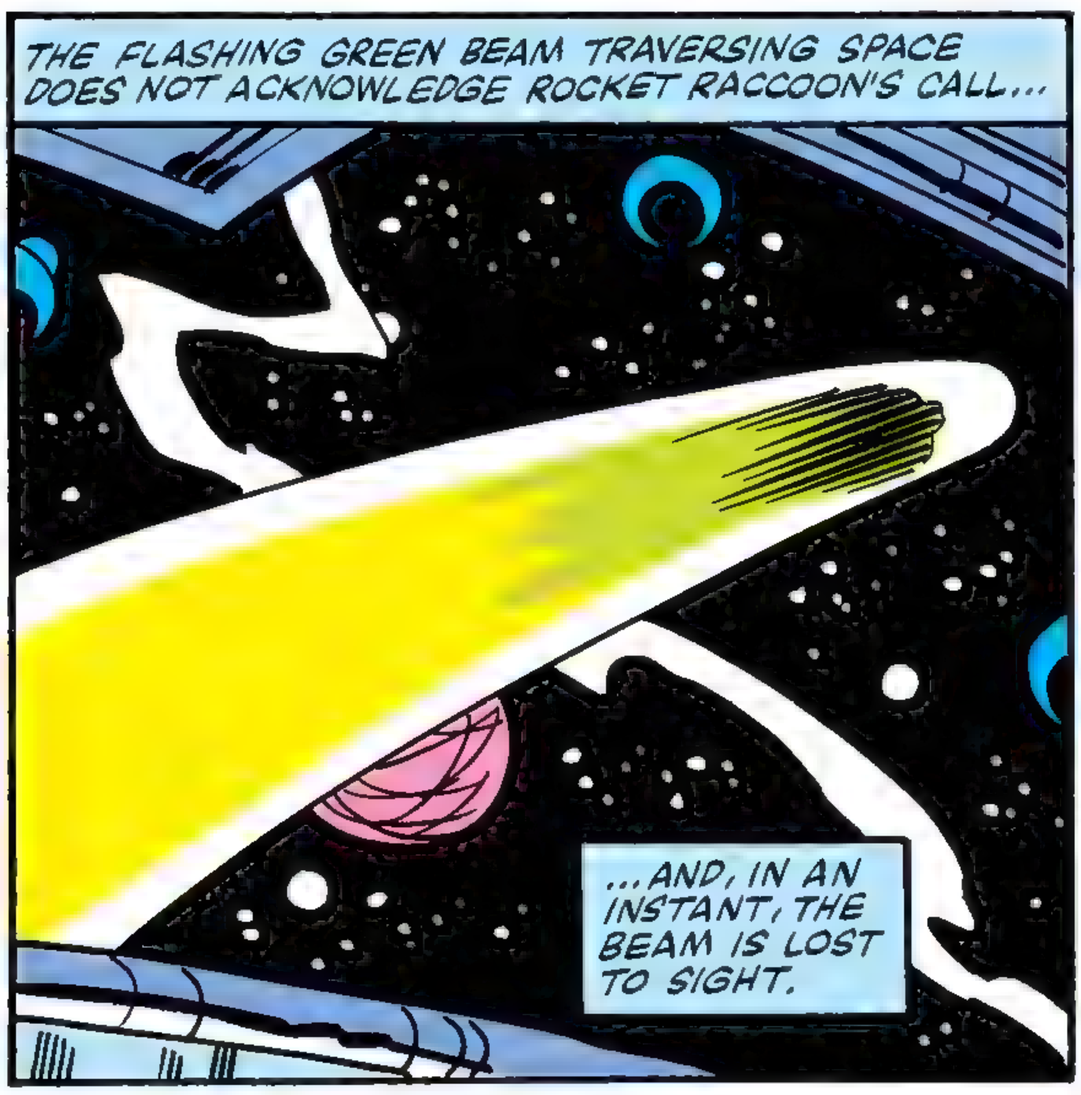
...WHILE, AT THE HUB OF SPACEWHEEL, ROCKET RACCOON'S FINGER GROWS ITCHY ON HIS TRIGGER.
I'M RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE, JAKES! LYLLA'S GOT A HELMET ON NOW, SO THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING ME FROM BLASTING A HOLE IN YOUR PICTURE WINDOW...!

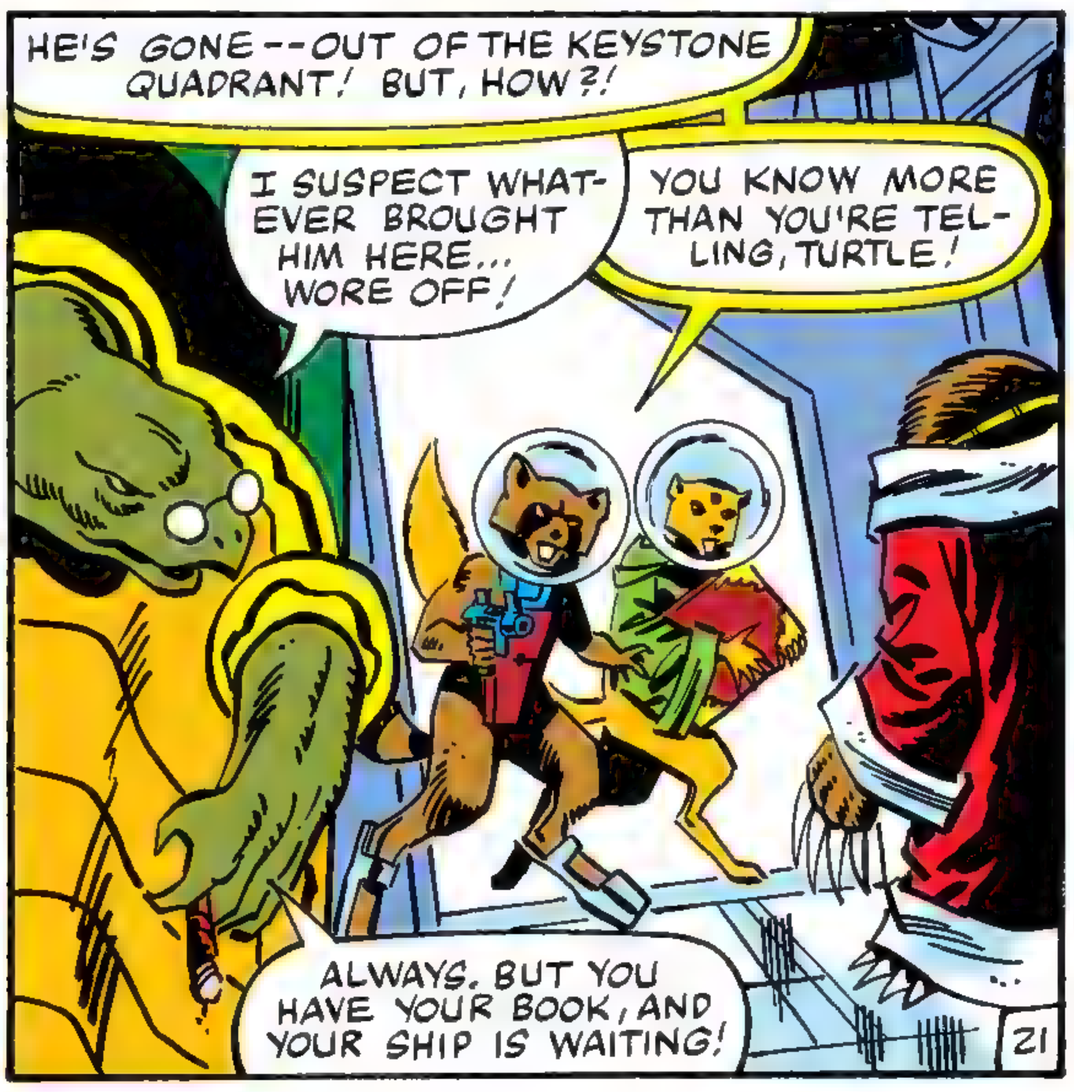
PLEASE, ROCKET --THAT'S THE BEST VIEW ON SPACEWHEEL!
ROCKY, IT'S THE TURTLE!
PYKO!
THE BOOK, UNCLE-- GIVE HIM THE BOOK!!

GIDEON'S BIBLE? WHY, CERTAINLY! IMPENETRABLE PROSE, YOU KNOW. COULDN'T MAKE HEAD NOR TAILS OF IT!
I'M AFRAID IT WILL NEVER BE A BEST-SELLER!
GIDEON'S BIBLE

MAYBE NOT, BUT AT LEAST IT'LL BE SAFE WHERE IT BELONGS BACK IN IT'S SHRINE AT CUCKOO'S NEST!
AN APPRO-PRIATE NAME, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!

WHY? NOBODY KNOWS WHAT CUCKOO'S NEST MEANS!
OF COURSE NOT! I'D FORGOTTEN! OH, LOOK! THERE GOES YOUR FRIEND!
MY FRIEND--?
YES! THE HULK, I BELIEVE HE WAS CALLED!
HULK!


THE FLASHING GREEN BEAM TRAVERSING SPACE DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE ROCKET RACCOON'S CALL...
...AND, IN AN INSTANT, THE BEAM IS LOST TO SIGHT.


HE'S GONE--OUT OF THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT! BUT, HOW?!
I SUSPECT WHAT-EVER BROUGHT HIM HERE... WORE OFF!
YOU KNOW MORE THAN YOU'RE TEL-LING, TURTLE!
ALWAYS. BUT YOU HAVE YOUR BOOK, AND YOUR SHIP IS WAITING!
21

THEN, WHEN ROCKET AND LYLLA HAVE DISEMBARKED FROM SPACEWHEEL...

BLAST! WE FINALLY HAD GIDEON'S BIBLE IN OUR HANDS!

IT WOULDN'T HAVE DONE YOU ANY GOOD -- NOT EVEN MY COMPUTERS COULD READ IT!

IT WAS ALL *GREEK* TO THEM!

GREEK? WHAT'S "*GREEK?*"

A SYNONYM FOR INCOMPREHENSIBLE, IF YOU ASK ME, I DON'T THINK ***GIDEON'S BIBLE*** MAKES ANY SENSE AT ALL!

WHAT ABOUT THAT GREEN CREATURE WHO AIDED THE RACCOON?

THE *HULK?* I IMAGINE HE'S ON HIS WAY... *HOME!*

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE *RAKK-'N'-RUIN...*

SORRY, ROCKET--I DETECT NO GAMMA TRACE OF THE HULK ANYWHERE...

I WISH I KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM! WE OWE SPINACH-SKIN A LOT!

WELL, MAYBE OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN--

--*SOMEDAY!*

PERHAPS, BUT IN THE INTERIM THE STAGE IS NOW SET FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE THE MOST STARTLING SERIES OF CHANGES IN THE LIFE OF ***THE INCREDIBLE HULK*** YET!

CANCEL WHATEVER OTHER APPOINTMENTS YOU MAY HAVE MADE AND BE HERE FOR ***THE INCREDIBLE HULK*** #272, ENTITLED...

22

"...I HAVE A **BRAIN,** BUT I MUST **SCREAM!**"

60¢ | 272 JUNE 02456

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TM

MILGROM '82

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

WEIRDSONG OF THE WENDIGO!

DEEP IN THE WOODS OF NORTHERN CANADA AN EMERALD BEAM OF LIGHT STABS DOWN OUT OF THE SKY.

WITHIN ITS COMPASS, **MAN** BECOMES **MONSTER** BECOMES **MAN** AGAIN.

BEGINNING--A BRAND-NEW CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

BILL MANTLO & SAL BUSCEMA
WRITER-STORYTELLERS-ARTIST

JIM NOVAK
LETTERS

BOB SHAREN
COLORS

AL MILGROM
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LORD--!

DESPITE HIS SNOWSCAPE SURROUNDINGS, DR. BRUCE BANNER IS AWASH WITH SWEAT.

HOW DID I GET HERE?

WAIT, I--I REMEMBER...

YES, THE MAN REMEMBERS...

...WAKING ON THE REDSWARD OF A DISTANT PLANET--HALFWORLD--OCCUPIED BY UNINTELLIGENT AUTOMATONS AND INTELLIGENT ANIMALS.

THERE THE MONSTER ENCOUNTERED ROCKET RACCOON & COMPANY.

THERE ALSO THE HULK MET THAT MACHIAVELLIAN MOLE, JUDSON JAKES, AND HIS SINISTER CHIEF SCIENTIST, THE TORTOISE UNCLE PYKO.

WANNA GO HOME, KID? I CAN ARRANGE IT!

HAVING HELPED ROCKET RACCOON BREECH JAKES' DEFENSES AND RETRIEVE THE STOLEN GIDEON'S BIBLE...

...THE HULK CHOSE TO TAKE UNCLE PYKO UP ON HIS OFFER.

SECONDS LATER, THE JADE GIANT DEPARTED THE ZANY KEYSTONE QUADRANT RIDING A GREEN BEAM OF LIGHT.

GAMMA GREEN, TO BE EXACT.

SO UNCLE PYKO *DID* SEND ME BACK TO EARTH AFTER ALL!

ME? NO--THE *HULK!*

HOW IS IT I NOW RECALL SO VIVIDLY EVENTS IN WHICH I TOOK PART AS MY EMERALD *ALTER-EGO*--

--WHEN NORMALLY I ONLY DIMLY REMEMBER WHAT MADNESS THE *HULK* IS INVOLVED IN?

THAT IS A QUESTION BRUCE BANNER WILL PONDER LATER ...SHOULD HE SURVIVE.

I'M FREEZING!

MUST FIND SHELTER!

SHELTER? IN THIS WILDERNESS? WELL, PERHAPS THIS MAN WHO HAS BEEN CURSED IN EVERYTHING ELSE...

...WILL BE BLESSED, AT LEAST, IN THAT.

PERHAPS.

A CABIN!

MAYBE THERE I'LL BE ABLE TO BUILD A FIRE? MAYBE I'LL EVEN FIND FOOD.

OR MAYBE THERE HE WILL *BECOME* FOOD.

A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...

IT'S INSANE TO BE MOVING THROUGH THESE WOODS AT NIGHT, BUT I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

THERE IS ANOTHER HUNTER WHOM I MUST FIND.

A HUNTER OF... *MEN!*

*THOUGH HE WOULD RATHER HE DIDN'T, DR. **WALTER LANGKOWSKI** REMEMBERS THAT NIGHT...*

3

HE HAD BEEN CAMPING WHEN HE HEARD THE SCREAMS.

YES, SCREAMS. HUMAN VOICES RAISED IN TERROR...

...AND SOME SAVAGE, SNARLING, GUTTURAL WAIL TORN FROM NO HUMAN THROAT.

AS HE RAN, HE BEGAN TO MOUTH A SILENT MANTRA...

...SYLLABLES OF POWER WHICH MOVED HIM TOWARDS A GREATER POWER WITHIN HIM...

...POWER WAITING TO BE RELEASED!

ONCE AGAIN, **SASQUATCH** STRODE THE FROZEN NORTH.

STILL, HE DID NOT MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO PREVENT A TRAGEDY.

A CAMPER--OVERTURNED! ONE SIDE OF IT IS CRUSHED IN! I'VE SEEN GRIZZLIES DO THAT TO CANNED FOODS LEFT AT PICNIC SITES!

BUT NO *GRIZZLY* DID THIS!

AS HE MOVED WARILY CLOSER, SOMETHING ELSE CAUGHT THE CANADIAN SUPER HERO'S EYE.

BLOOD ON THE SNOW!

HUMAN BLOOD!

WHAT REMAINED OF THOSE WHO'D BEEN DRAGGED FROM THE CAMPER LAY BEFORE HIM.

IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TELL HOW MANY THERE'D BEEN.

SOMETHING KILLED THOSE CAMPERS--TORE THEM LIMB FROM LIMB--AND WAS GETTING READY TO *FEAST* WHEN IT HEARD ME COMING THROUGH THE FOREST!

IT COULD ONLY BE--!

THOSE FOOTPRINTS! IT *WAS* HIM!

NOT LONG AGO DR. WALTER LANGKOWSKI WAS A MEMBER OF A TEAM OF CANADIAN **SUPER-AGENTS** KNOWN BY THE CODE-NAME, **ALPHA FLIGHT!**

AURORA SHAMAN VINDICATOR NORTHSTAR SNOWBIRD SASQUATCH

THREE OF THE TEAM HAD JOINED UP WITH TWO **X-MEN**--**WOLVERINE** AND **NIGHTCRAWLER**--TO COMBAT AN UNHOLY TERROR CALLED THE **WENDIGO!** *

*FLASHBACK COURTESY OF **X-MEN** #139 & 140--AL.

AN EATER OF HUMAN FLESH, THE **WENDIGO** WAS NEARLY INVINCIBLE. THOUGH BEATEN, HE WOULD HAVE RISEN AGAIN AND AGAIN...

...HAD NOT **SHAMAN** REVERSED THE CURSE OF THE NORTH WOODS AND MADE THE MONSTER HUMAN ONCE MORE.

VINDICATOR SHOWED ME PLASTER CASTS HE'S MADE OF THE WENDIGO'S TRACKS.

THEY WERE THE SAME AS THOSE BACK AT THE CAMPSITE.

SO A **NEW** WENDIGO STALKS AGAIN--

"--A SUPERNATURALLY-SPAWNED CREATURE WHOM, I'M TOLD, ALMOST MANAGED TO SLAY THE INCREDIBLE HULK A FEW YEARS BACK." *

*HULK #162 180 & 181--AL.

NOT A COMFORTING THOUGHT, SINCE THE HULK EASILY BEAT ME! *

WENDIGO'S KILLED --BUT HE HASN'T EATEN. SOON HE'LL BE SO HUNGRY I WON'T SCARE HIM OFF.

THEN I'LL HAVE TO BATTLE TO KEEP MYSELF FROM BECOMING **FOOD!**

YET NOT ONCE DOES SASQUATCH THINK OF ABANDONING THE CHASE.

*HULK ANNUAL #8--AL.

5

SAME CONTINENT, DIFFERENT COUNTRY, FURTHER SOUTH...

BY THE SIDE OF A DESERT LAKE, A CAVE.

WITHIN THE CAVE, A LABORATORY... BRUCE BANNER'S LABORATORY.

WITHIN THE LAB, A TRAGEDY.

I-I'M NO DOCTOR, BUT YOUR *LIFE-SUPPORT COUCH* SEEMS TO HAVE STABILIZED RICK'S CONDITION, BEREET.

HE'S STILL *GREEN* FROM *GAMMA RAY POISONING*, BUT HE'S NOT GETTING ANY WORSE.

THE BAG AT THE KRYLORIAN MAID'S HIP IS ACTUALLY A *SPATIAL DISTORTER*, CONTAINING FAR MORE WITHIN IT THAN IS EVIDENT FROM WITHOUT.

IT HAS PRODUCED THE *SPACESHIP* THAT BROUGHT BEREET TO EARTH, THE *COUCH* THAT KEEPS RICK JONES ALIVE... AND NOW THIS!

BEHOLD--THE *STAR EYE!*

THE WHAT--? HOW WILL THAT THING HELP CURE RICK?

IT WILL NOT. THE *STAR EYE* IS AN *ENTERTAINMENT MODULE*, ABLE TO CONTRIVE FICTIONAL NARRATIVES FROM WHATEVER SITUATIONS IT IS WITNESS TO.

IT'S A *MOVIE CAMERA!*

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.

THEN YOU STILL MEAN TO MAKE A FILM WHILE RICK LIES DYING?!

BETTY ROSS HAS SUFFERED MUCH IN THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

FIRST SHE WATCHED AS THE MAN SHE LOVES TRANSFORMED INTO THE MONSTER MEN CALL *HULK*.

THEN SAW THE HULK BATTLE THREE BIZARRE MENACES FROM SPACE.

FINALLY, SHE STOOD HELPLESSLY BY AS *RICK JONES*, IN AN EFFORT TO BECOME A *SECOND* HULK TO AID THE FIRST, SUBMITTED HIMSELF TO A MASSIVE DOSE OF *GAMMA RAYS*.

RICK SUCCEEDED ONLY IN NEARLY KILLING HIMSELF.

6

NOW, WITH A DEATHLY ILL BOY ON HER HANDS, MILES FROM NOWHERE, BETTY FINDS SHE HAS TO DEAL WITH AN ADDLED ALIEN AS WELL.

RICK, THIS SPACEWOMAN SAYS SHE KNOWS YOU AND THE HULK INTIMATELY-- THAT SHE'S SHARED ADVENTURES WITH YOU IN THE PAST.

NEVER... SAW... BIRD CHICK... IN MY LIFE... BETTY.

TECHNICALLY, THE BOY SPEAKS TRUE, EARTHWOMAN.

THEN HOW CAN YOU CLAIM TO KNOW HIM?!

LOOK INTO THE STAR EYE... LOOK DEEP. THERE YOU SHALL FIND YOUR QUESTION ANSWERED.

BETTY ROSS LOOKS. THE STAR EYE'S IRIS DILATES. ITS PUPIL GOES BLANK...

...THEN SHIMMERS, AND PROJECTED ON THE CIRCULAR SCREEN APPEARS A RECORD OF EVENTS THAT NEVER WERE.

RICK, THE HULK... AND *YOU*... BEING ATTACKED BY HORRID, TOAD-LIKE ALIENS!

NOW THE HULK IS BATTLING THE ORIGINAL *AVENGERS*--THE ORIGINAL *X-MEN*--THE *SUB-MARINER*!

BATTLES WHICH *NEVER* TOOK PLACE!

NO. BUT THEY MIGHT AS WELL HAVE, SO *REAL* DID THE *STAR-EYE* MAKE THEM APPEAR.

HOW--?

I TOLD YOU-- IT WITNESSES *REAL* SITUATIONS AND *FICTIONALIZES* THEM.

UNDER MY TELEPATHIC DIRECTION, OF COURSE.

AND NOW YOU'RE ABOUT TO FILM THE DEATH OF RICK JONES?

YES. MY NEWEST "FILM" WILL BE A *DOCUMENTARY*.

BUT WE SHOULD BE GETTING RICK TO A HOSPITAL-- A DOCTOR.

WHY? THAT WOULD BE ALTERING THE COURSE OF EVENTS.

I HAVE COME TO EARTH IN PERSON BECAUSE I AM TIRED OF FILMED FICTION.

I FIND *REALITY* SO MUCH MORE EXCITING.

MEANWHILE, IN THE FROZEN NORTH, WE FIND A NEARLY FROZEN DR. BANNER.

G-GOT T-TO K-KEEP G-GOING! N-NOT M-MUCH F-FURTHER N-NOW!

THE CABIN STANDS EMPTY...

...ITS DOOR AJAR.

IT IS AS COLD WITHIN AS WITHOUT...

...AND DARKER, NOT HAVING THE BENEFIT OF STARLIGHT.

OW!

BANNER'S FALL IS FORTUITOUS, FOR IT BRINGS HIS HAND IN CONTACT WITH...

A FLASHLIGHT!

AND IT WORKS!

BUT WHAT DOES IT ILLUMINATE?

HORRIFIED, BRUCE BANNER FALLS BACK AGAINST AN INNER DOOR. UNLOCKED, IT SWINGS EASILY OPEN.

THIS IS THE *PANTRY*.

THESE HAD ONCE LIVED HERE. THE MEAT HAS LONG SINCE BEEN GNAWED OFF THEIR BONES.

HEART POUNDING, MOUTH DRY, BREATH COMING IN SHORT RASPS, BRUCE BANNER BOLTS FROM THE CHARNEL CLOSET.

IT HAS NOT YET OCCURRED TO HIM THAT DESPITE ALL HIS HORROR, ALL HIS FEAR, THE EXCITEMENT HE IS EXPERIENCING HAS YET TO TRIGGER HIS CHANGE TO THE INCREDIBLE HULK.

WHY?

I-I'VE GOT TO GET *OUT* OF HERE! WHATEVER KILLED THOSE POOR DEVILS...

...*ATE* THEM!

THEN HE REALIZES THAT A SHADOW HAS BLOCKED THE MOONLIGHT STREAMING THROUGH THE DOOR.

HE FEELS THE HOT, MOIST BREATH ON HIS SHOULDER.

HE TURNS...AND KNOWS TERROR TO THE CORE OF HIS BEING.

WEN-DI-GO!

THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO MORE ADEQUATE INTRODUCTION.

INDEED, ONE SCARCELY SEEMS NECESSARY, FOR BRUCE BANNER MAY NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH...

...TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED!

SOMETHING PULLED THAT MONSTER *OFF* OF ME!

WHO?! WHAT?!?

10

THE GENTLE-BEAST'S NAME IS... SASQUATCH!

SORRY, WENDIGO! NO HUMAN FLESH TONIGHT! TRY CHICKEN DELIGHT!

WEN-DI-GO!

EXCITEMENT, HORROR, FEAR, TERROR... BRUCE BANNER HAS EXPERIENCED THEM ALL IN THE SPACE OF A FEW, SHORT MINUTES...

...AND YET HE STILL HAS NOT CHANGED FROM MAN INTO MONSTER!

WHY?!?

GET OUT OF HERE WHILE YOU CAN, FRIEND! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG EVEN I CAN HOLD THE WENDIGO!

BANNER! BRUCE BANNER!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE... GNNGG!!

SHAP!

WEN-DI-GO!

SASQUATCH--A CANADIAN SCIENTIST CUM SUPER HERO! I FOUGHT HIM ONCE AS THE HULK!

NOW HE'S DOWN, AND THAT SLAVERING HORROR'S GOING FOR HIS THROAT!

I'VE GOT TO HELP!

HELP, DR. BANNER? BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO? YOU'RE A MAN. SASQUATCH AND WENDIGO ARE MONSTERS.

I JUST REALIZED... I HAVEN'T BECOME THE HULK!

WHY IN HEAVEN'S NAME NOT?!?

FOR WEEKS, BRUCE BANNER HAD BEEN BOMBARDING HIMSELF WITH GAMMA RAYS IN HIS UNDER-THE-DESERT LABORATORY IN AN EFFORT TO CURE HIMSELF OF EVER BECOMING THE HULK AGAIN.

IT HADN'T WORKED THEN, BUT THE RAY TREATMENTS' EFFECT HAD BEEN CUMULATIVE.

THEN, IN THE ACT OF DEFEATING THE GALAXY MASTER, THE HULK WAS INFUSED WITH EVEN MORE GAMMA RADIATION THAN EVER BEFORE IN HIS EMERALD EXISTENCE.

THE RAYS HELPED DESTROY THE GALAXY MASTER. THEIR EFFECT REMAINED IN THE HULK'S CELLS.

LASTLY, THE TRANSPORTER BEAM WHICH UNCLE PYKO HAD USED TO RETURN THE HULK TO EARTH WAS GAMMA POWERED.

THOSE RAYS, TOO, WERE ABSORBED BY THE MAN MONSTER.

12

ALL THAT *GAMMA RADIATION* ABSORBED INTO MY CELLS IN SO SHORT A TIME--CAN IT HAVE SOMEHOW *CHANGED* ME?

AM I *CURED* AT LAST--NOW, WHEN I NEED THE *HULK'S POWER* MOST?!?

RUN...BANNER! CAN'T... HOLD HIM... LONG!

RUN?! HOW FAR WOULD I GET!

I'D EITHER DIE OF EXPOSURE--OR BE DRAGGED BACK FOR *DINNER!*

I-I CAN'T DIE LIKE THAT--I *WON'T!*

BLAST IT, I DESERVE BETTER AFTER THE LIFE I'VE LED!

IF I'M CURED, I DESERVE A CHANCE TO *LIVE!*

THAT DESIRE TRIGGERS SOMETHING WITHIN THE MIND OF BRUCE BANNER...

...AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE MIND TRIGGERS CHANGE WITHIN THE BODY!

13

HOLD ON, SASQUATCH! I'M COMING!!

LISTEN TO THE WORDS. LISTEN TO THEIR INTONATION.

THE VOICE IS THAT OF **BRUCE BANNER.** THE POWERHOUSE SPEAKING IS THE **INCREDIBLE HULK!**

GET OFF OF HIM, YOU SNARLING, SAVAGE HORROR!

GET OFF OF HIM, I SAY!

FWAM!

BRAK!

14

WEN-DI-GO!

I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME, YOU ILLITERATE OBSCENITY! I'M NOT IMPRESSED!

THE HULK? SPEAKING LIKE *BRUCE BANNER*??

AND *THINKING* LIKE BRUCE BANNER, SASQUATCH!

THOUGH, I WONDER WHAT IT IS THAT GIVES BANNER THE CONFIDENCE TO HURL HIMSELF HEADLONG UPON THIS HOWLING HORROR?

PERHAPS, IT'S THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE'S POSSESSED OF THE POWER OF *THE INCREDIBLE HULK!*

THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

I-I MUST BE *DREAMING!* THE HULK IS A BRAINLESS BRUTE-- WELL, NOT EXACTLY BRAINLESS...

CHILDLIKE-- SUBJECT TO SAVAGE, UNREASONING RAGES!

I KNOW. I BARELY SURVIVED ONE MYSELF.

YET NOW I'M HEARING THE GREEN GOLIATH ENUNCIATING LIKE THE FAMOUS PHYSICIST, HIS HAPLESS ALTER-EGO-- *BRUCE BANNER!*

SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO MAKE THE INTELLIGENT SIDE OF THE HULK'S SPLIT-PERSONALITY-- THE *BANNER* SIDE-- *ASCENDANT!*

BUT CAN EVEN A *THINKING* HULK TRIUMPH OVER THE INVINCIBLE *WENDIGO!*

JUST WHAT IS THE WENDIGO, AND WHENCE STEMS HIS UNEARTHLY INVINCIBILITY?

THE ANSWER LIES IN AN ANCIENT CURSE...

...WHICH DESCENDED UPON THE VERY CABIN OUTSIDE OF WHICH OUR THREE MONSTERS FIGHT. 15

THE SNOWS HAD BEEN SEVERE AND SUSTAINED, LOCKING THE TRAPPERS IN.

IT HADN'T BEEN LONG BEFORE THE FOOD HAD RUN OUT.

DRIVEN TO MADNESS BY HUNGER, FRANCOIS LARTIGUE MURDERED HIS COMPANIONS ONE, TWO AND THREE...

...AND ATE THEM.

THUS HE BECAME SUBJECT TO THE **CURSE OF THE NORTH WOODS** AND WENT FORTH INTO THE NIGHT A HOWLING HARBINGER OF HORROR...

...THE **WENDIGO!**

WENDIGO CAN'T REALLY DIE-- BUT HE CAN BE SUBDUED!

THAT WOULD GIVE MY TEAMMATE--*SHAMAN*--TIME TO GET UP HERE AND CAST A *COUNTERSPELL!*

IT'S UP TO THE *HULK* AND ME TO HOLD HIM!

IF ONLY I CAN MAKE THE HULK UNDERSTAND...!

OF COURSE I CAN. I FORGOT--I'M DEALING WITH AN *INTELLIGENT* HULK NOW, A HULK THINKING WITH *BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN!*

BUT IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?

WENDIGO IS MOTIVATED BY BRUTE *BLOODLUST!* HE WON'T BE FIGHTING BY QUEENSBURY RULES--HE'LL BE GOING STRAIGHT FOR THE JUGULAR!

WHICH IS WHAT *WE'VE* GOT TO DO IF WE'RE TO DEFEAT HIM!

IN FACT, THAT'S HOW *WOLVERINE* AND *SNOWBIRD* BEAT HIM LAST TIME--BY BECOMING EVEN *MORE* ANIMALISTIC THAN WENDIGO!

THIS MAY BE A BATTLE WHERE *BRAINS* ARE A DEFINITE *LIABILITY!*

STILL, IT IS A BATTLE THAT MUST BE FOUGHT...

...AND *WON!*

16

WEN-DI-GO!

I'M GROWING EXTREMELY TIRED OF HEARING THAT TUNE, FRIEND. THE MELODY FAILS TO MOVE ME.

BESIDES THAT, YOUR BREATH SMELLS--OF AN APPETITE TOO ABHORRENT TO MENTION.

I THINK I'LL JUST *SHUT* YOUR MOUTH AND *END* YOUR SONG ...FOR-EVER!

RRROWLLLL

THAT'S BETTER.

I LIKED THE CRESCENDO OF *PAIN* YOU REACHED ON THAT LAST NOTE.

IT WILL NEVER EQUAL LISTENING TO BEETHOVEN'S "ODE TO JOY"--

--BUT FROM *YOU*, IT'S A SOUND I WOULDN'T MIND HEARING AGAIN.

KWUD!

GETTING TO YOUR FEET AGAIN, EH?

WEN-DI-GO!

THAT'S GOOD! IT GIVES ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO KNOCK YOU DOWN!

17

WEN-DI-GO!

FACED WITH THIS SLAVERING, SCREAMING, SEEMINGLY UNDEFEATABLE HORROR...

...THE MIND OF BRUCE BANNER KNOWS A MOMENT OF FEAR.

IT IS THAT MOMENT'S HESITANCY THAT IS THE HULK'S UNDOING.

SLASH!

YOU DREW BLOOD! YOU HURT ME!! GET AWAY!!

MURDEROUS MAN-EATER! I'LL BEAT YOU INTO A BLOODY PULP!

DO YOU HEAR ME? HULK WILL SMASH!

GOOD LORD, HE'S SLIPPING INTO THE SAVAGERY OF THE HULK! IF HE DOES, I WON'T BE ABLE TO COUNT ON HIS HELP!

DR. BANNER-- LISTEN TO ME!

18

HUNH? WHY SHOULD HULK LISTEN TO HAIRY MAN?

BECAUSE YOU'RE *NOT* THE HULK ANYMORE-- MENTALLY, YOU'RE *BRUCE BANNER...*

...AND IT'S BRUCE BANNER'S HELP I NEED NOW!

BANNER? Y-YES, I'M BRUCE BANNER.

GOOD--REMEMBER THAT, AND LISTEN TO ME. THE WENDIGO *CAN'T* BE DESTROYED, BUT HE CAN BE SUBDUED LONG ENOUGH FOR SOMEONE I KNOW TO "CURE" HIM!

YOU WANT HIM SUBDUED, LANGKOWSKI--

--THEN SUBDUED HE'LL BE!

ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS KEEP HAMMERING AWAY AT HIM AND EVENTUALLY HE'LL FALL DOWN, RIGHT?

TIME WE'LL *DENY* HIM! *WE*, DR. BANNER! WE'VE GOT TO GO AT WENDIGO TOGETHER OR WE HAVEN'T A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE!

YES, AND HE'LL GET RIGHT BACK UP AGAIN UNLESS WE LAY HIM OUT SO HARD AND LONG THAT HE'LL NEED TIME TO HEAL!

19

I DON'T SEE THAT, SASQUATCH. I SEEM TO BE HOLDING MY OWN AGAINST THAT ALBINO ABOMINATION WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM YOU.

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DR. BANNER --THIS ISN'T A CONTEST!

ISN'T IT? MY STRENGTH-- THE HULK'S STRENGTH-- AGAINST WENDIGO?

IT'S A SPARRING MATCH I FIND ODDLY ENJOYABLE, DOCTOR.

I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.

AFTER ALL, YOU AND I ARE REMARKABLY SIMILAR... NOW.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN MATCHING MUSCLES WITH A MURDERING MONSTER, DR. BANNER. I ONLY WANT TO STOP WENDIGO FROM KILLING AGAIN!

NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT, LANGKOWSKI! I JUST WANTED TO HAVE A LITTLE PLEASURE IN THE PROCESS!

20

THE PLEASURE OF POSSESSING-- AND CONSCIOUSLY CONTROLLING --MORE *POWER* THAN I'VE EVER KNOWN IN MY LIFE!

KRAKOOM!

THUNK!

BUT YOU'VE BEEN THE *HULK* FOR YEARS!

NOT ME, DOCTOR-- NOT *BRUCE BANNER!* I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE PUNY, HELPLESS *MAN* INSIDE THE MONSTER!

TODAY, BRUCE BANNER IS THE INCREDIBLE HULK!!

WITH THAT STARTLING REVELATION, THE WENDIGO BECOMES THE IMMOVABLE FORCE BETWEEN TWO IRRESISTABLE OBJECTS.

*THE PAIN HE KNOWS IS GREATER THAN **ANY** BEAST-- SUPERNATURAL OR OTHERWISE-- CAN STAND.*

IT WILL TAKE HIM HOURS TO HEAL...

...AND, BY THAT TIME, HE WILL BE THE WENDIGO NO LONGER!

WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE STOPPED HIM!

DID YOU EVER DOUBT WE WOULD?

21

YES. I'M EXHAUSTED. HAD THE WENDIGO ATTACKED ME AGAIN, I WOULD HAVE FALLEN FOR SURE.

I'VE GOT A RADIO BACK AT MY CAMP. MUST CONTACT THE *RCMPS*--

--AND GET *SHAMAN* UP HERE TO CAST A COUNTER-SPELL.

YOU DO THAT, LANGKOWSKI.

I'LL STAND GUARD OVER OUR FALLEN HORROR HERE. SHOULD HE WAKE UP, I'LL LAY HIM LOW AGAIN.

BECAUSE, MISTER, *THE INCREDIBLE HULK* IS JUST GETTING *WARMED UP!*

*DESPITE THE OBVIOUS INTELLIGENCE IN THE WORDS, SASQUATCH DETECTS A MOUNTING **SAVAGERY** IN THE VOICE.*

*HE WONDERS IF THE **MONSTER** LYING ON THE SNOW IS THE ONE HE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT...*

*...OR WHETHER THE WORLD MUST NOW BE PROTECTED FROM AN **INTELLIGENT** HULK.*

BE HERE IN THIRTY DAYS WHEN BRUCE BANNER LEARNS ...ONCE A HULK, ALWAYS A HULK! PLUS: THE INSECTOIDS!

60¢ CC

273 JULY 02456

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TM

MILGROM/SINNOTT

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

BILL MANTLO SCRIPTER / SAL BUSCEMA ARTIST / JIM NOVAK, LETTERS BOB SHAREN, COLORS / AL MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER LEADER

IN THE NORTH CANADIAN WOODS, A GAMMA-IRRADIATED GOLIATH TRIES TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS NOW BOTH ***MAN*** AND ***MONSTER***, ONLY TO LEARN THE BITTER LESSON...

ONCE A HULK, ALWAYS A HULK!

AS THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE LOOK EDGILY ON, THE CANADIAN SUPER HERO ***SASQUATCH*** BINDS THE HORROR CALLED ***WENDIGO*** WITH TITANIUM CABLES.

ONLY A MAGIC COUNTERSPELL CAN REVERSE THE CURSE THAT TURNED A STARVING TRAPPER INTO THE WENDIGO--

--AND ONLY MY FORMER TEAMMATE, ***SHAMAN***, IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO CAST SUCH A SPELL BEFORE THE WENDIGO WAKES.

LET HIM WAKE! I'LL JUST ***SMASH*** HIM BACK TO SLEEP ALL OVER AGAIN!

WITH THE ***POWER*** OF ***THE INCREDIBLE HULK***-- ***I CAN DO ANYTHING!***

THE VOCABULARY IS ***DR. BRUCE BANNER'S.*** THE GUTTERAL INTONATION IS ***THE INCREDIBLE HULK'S!***

DR. BANNER, WHEN I'M NOT PLAYING 'HAIRY HERO', I'M A SCIENTIST, TOO.

FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, I GATHER IT WAS YOUR SEARCH FOR A WAY TO DESTROY THE *HULK* SIDE OF YOUR PERSONALITY THAT LED TO THE *BRUCE BANNER* SIDE BECOMING ASCENDANT?

THAT'S PUTTING IT SOMEWHAT SIMPLISTICALLY, BUT YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY CORRECT.

"IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS I'VE EXPOSED MYSELF TO A GREATER CONCENTRATION OF *GAMMA RAYS* THAN EVER BEFORE IN MY LIFE.

"IT WAS GAMMA RAYS THAT MADE ME THE HULK, YOU KNOW."

APPARENTLY, *THOSE* TREATMENTS, COUPLED WITH MASSIVE DOSAGES I RECEIVED WHILE OFF EARTH,* HAVE HAD A CUMULATIVE EFFECT--

--PRODUCING THIS *NEW* CHANGE IN ME.

*HULK #269-271--AL.

YES. I OBSERVED DURING THE BATTLE WITH THE WENDIGO HOW YOU BECAME THE HULK AT *WILL*--A HULK GUIDED BY BRUCE BANNER'S *INTELLIGENCE.*

RICK JONES'S FONDEST DREAM.

PARDON? WHO...?

JUST A FRIEND. SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS HOPED TO SEE THE HULK BECOME A FORCE FOR *GOOD.*

AND WHY NOT?

WHY NOT? I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS ALL I EVER CONSIDERED WAS RIDDING MYSELF OF THE CURSE OF BECOMING THE HULK SO THAT I COULD LIVE A NORMAL LIFE. I NEVER WANTED TO BE A *SUPER HERO.*

SASQUATCH, WHY ARE THOSE MOUNTIES ENCIRCLING ME--WITH WEAPONS AT THE READY?

ORDERS FROM OTTAWA. THE HULK IS STILL CLASSIFIED AS A *MENACE.*

YES, THE *HULK!* NOT *ME!* NOT BRUCE BANNER!

CALM DOWN, DR. BANNER! THEY'RE ONLY DOING THEIR DUTY!

*DUTY -- BLIND, UNQUESTIONING, OBEDIENT **DUTY.** HOW OFTEN HAS IT BEEN THAT INFLEXIBLE ADHERENCE TO DUTY -- THE FAILURE TO ADAPT TO NEW SITUATIONS -- HAS RESULTED IN NEEDLESS TRAGEDY?*

GREENIE'S GETTING ANGRY, SIR. ORDERS?

WE'RE TO HOLD HIM ANY WAY WE *HAVE* TO. HE'S WREAKED HOLY HAVOC ON CANADA BEFORE.

HE *WON'T* GET THE CHANCE TO DO IT AGAIN!

BACK, YOU FOOLS! CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE DEALING WITH AN *INTELLIGENT* HULK, HERE?! *GNNGG!*

AWAY, HAIRY MAN! YOU CALL YOURSELF HULK'S FRIEND --

--WHILE OTHERS POINT GUNS AT HULK!

INTELLIGENT? LISTEN TO THAT SAVAGE SNARLING! THE MONSTER'S GONE *WILD!* BRING HIM DOWN!

AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE SHATTERS THE OTHERWISE SILENT TRANQUILITY OF THE VAST, PINEY WOODS.

THE BULLETS HAVE ABOUT AS MUCH EFFECT AS HURLING SNOWBALLS INTO A BLAST-FURNACE.

BULLETS CANNOT HURT HULK! NOTHING CAN HURT HULK!

BUT HULK CAN HURT YOU!

BLAST IT ALL! I TRIED TO *AVERT* THIS! I SAW, WHILE FIGHTING THE WENDIGO, HOW EASILY BRUCE BANNER SLIPPED INTO THE SAVAGERY OF THE HULK!

STOP! YOU'RE ONLY ENRAGING HIM FURTHER!

YES, HULK IS ANGRY--HULK IS *MAD!*

HULK HELPS DEFEAT MONSTER--AND HULK IS PAID BACK WITH BULLETS!

AN EMERALD FOOT SLAMS IVORY SNOW...

...WITH RESULTS SEEN OFT'TIMES BEFORE.

IT IS YOU WHO DO NOT *TRUST* HULK--

--WHO MAKE HULK A *MONSTER!*

HE'S LEAPING AWAY!

4

SHOULD I GO AFTER HIM? HOW? AND FOR WHAT? UNTIL HE CALMS DOWN--UNTIL BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN REGAINS ASCENDANCY--HE'LL BE BEYOND REASON.

A PITY. I WAS GOING TO OFFER HIM MY LAB FACILITIES TO RESEARCH HIS NEW CONDITION.

I'M SURE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE SPARED NO EXPENSE TO HAVE BOTH THE *HULK* AND *BRUCE BANNER* ON ITS SIDE.

*ALAS, SOME THINGS ARE NEVER **MEANT** TO BE.*

MANY MILES TO THE SOUTH A CAVE STANDS BESIDE A DESERT LAKE.

WITHIN THE CAVE, EXTENDING BELOW THE DESERT FLOOR, IS A SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY.

BRUCE BANNER'S LABORATORY...

...OCCUPIED, AT THIS MOMENT, BY SOME VERY STRANGE BEINGS!

GLEEP!

THE LITTLE ROUND ONE IS **STURKY.** THE BIG OVOID IS THE **STAR-EYE.** THE SENSUOUS BIRD-LADY IS **BEREET,** TECHNO-ARTIST FROM THE PLANET KRYLOR. SHE CREATED THE OTHER TWO.

WHICH IS WHY SHE IS NOT EXACTLY PLEASED WHEN **BETTY ROSS** GIVES THE STAR-EYE THE BOTTOM SIDE OF HER BOOT.

IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU *FILM* RICK JONES'S *DEATH*--

SKLANG

--YOU'RE *CRAZY!*

STURKY, THE EARTH-WOMAN IS UPSET! CALM HER!

STURKLE!

OH, NO! YOUR ROLY-POLY *LIVING TRANQUIL-IZER* PULLED THAT STUNT ON ME BEFORE.

SPLUNCE!

I'M MAD-- AND SCARED-- AND I WANT TO *STAY* THAT WAY!

GLEEP?!

MAYBE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND YET, BIRD-LADY-- BUT ONE OF THE "STARS" IN THE MOVIE YOU WANT TO MAKE ABOUT THE *HULK*--

--IS *DYING* OF *GAMMA-RAY POISONING!*

IF HE GOES THIS EARLY IN THE FILM, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE MUCH OF A MOVIE, ARE YOU?!

5

YOU ARGUE YOUR POINT MOST FORCEFULLY, EARTHWOMAN. I CAME HERE IN PERSON TO FILM A *DOCU-MENTARY.*

A *FICTIONALIZED* NARRATIVE I COULD HAVE SHOT-- LIKE ALL MY OTHER FILMS-- FROM FAR-OFF KRYLOR...

...BY MONI-TORING YOUR WORLD VIA MY *STAR-EYE.*

HOWEVER, RICK JONES *IS* AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY PROPOSED FILM. HAVING HIM DIE THIS EARLY ON WOULD BE POOR PLANNING.

THEN... YOU WILL HELP ME GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL?

YES.

GLEEGLE?!

BUT FIRST I MUST RETURN MY TECHNO-ART CREATIONS TO MY *SPATIAL DISTORTER.*

DO NOT STRUGGLE, STURKY! YOU KNOW YOU LIKE IT INSIDE--

GLEEK!

SNAP

--WHERE THERE'S SO MUCH MORE *ROOM* THAN OUT HERE!

I WON'T ASK HOW YOU DO THAT. I PROBABLY WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND ANYWAY.

PROBABLY NOT.

OH! THE *LIFE-SUP-PORT COUCH* ON WHICH RICK WAS LYING-- IT'S STARTING TO *WALK!*

OF COURSE. I DESIGNED IT FOR MOBILITY.

NOW WHERE IS THIS HOUSE OF HEALING TO WHICH YOU WANT RICK JONES TAKEN?

THE HOSPITAL? I-I JUST REALIZED ...I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE NEAR-EST ONE IS!

6

AND EVEN IF I DID, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE THE RADIATION TREATMENT FACILITIES TO DEAL WITH RICK'S CONDITION!

WAIT! THERE IS SOME PLACE -- SOME PLACE NEAR!

GAMMA BASE! IT'S BEEN SHUT DOWN FOR MONTHS -- BUT IT WAS NEVER DISMANTLED!

BUT HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

YOU PROVIDE THE DIRECTIONS --

--AND I WILL PROVIDE THE TRANSPORTATION.

FROM HER SPATIAL DISTORTER HIP-BAG BEREET EXTRACTS A MASK.

A BANSHEE-MASK, TO BE PRECISE, WHICH, WHEN FITTED OVER HER HEAD, BEGINS TO GROW...

...AND GROW...

...AND GROW!

INCREDIBLE! ONE MOMENT BEREET WAS WEARING A MASK -- THE NEXT THE MASK EXPANDED INTO A SPACESHIP CARRYING US ALL INSIDE IT!

AND BEREET'S NOT ONLY THE PILOT -- SHE'S A PART OF THE SHIP!

LITERALLY POWERED BY THOUGHT, THE BANSHEE CRAFT SCREAMS AWAY, ACROSS THE DESERT.

ITS PASSAGE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT GO ENTIRELY UNNOTICED!

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES WAS THAT?!

I DON'T KNOW! IT DISAPPEARED OFF RADAR AS FAST AS IT APPEARED! DO WE REPORT IT?

LET'S NOT AND SAY WE DID. I RETIRE FROM THE SERVICE IN THREE MONTHS.

I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT ANY SOONER, AFTER BEING QUOTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE *NATIONAL ENQUIRER*.

HEY! NOW WE'RE READING SOMETHING *'HOT'* ON THE *RADIATION SCOPE!*

*HERE IN EARTH'S UPPER ATMOSPHERE, THIS U.S. AIR FORCE RESEARCH PLANE TRAILS A SENSITIVE **RADIATION SCOOP.***

THE PURPOSE OF THE SCOOP IS TO GATHER DATA ON OUR PLANET'S OZONE LAYER.

*TODAY, IT HAS GATHERED ... **SOMETHING ELSE!***

SCOOP'S... *GONE!*

HOW? *HOW?*

AN ECSTATIC LAUGHTER COMING OVER THEIR HEADSETS IS THE PILOT'S ONLY ANSWER.

HAHAHAHAHAHA

FREE! *FREE! FREE!*

WHAT THIS PORTENDS FOR THE FUTURE -- AND FOR THE INCREDIBLE HULK -- ONLY TIME WILL TELL!

8

CANADA... STILL. (IT'S A **BIG** COUNTRY, YOU KNOW.)

A MONSTER LEAPS THROUGH THE SKY.

THE MIND OF THE MAN WITHIN THE MONSTER TRIES TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE MONSTER'S MIND.

IT SUCCEEDS.

I'VE DONE IT! THE HULK'S RAGE HAS SUBSIDED! I'M **BRUCE BANNER** AGAIN! BUT... **WHERE** AM I?

GOOD LORD! I'M THOUSANDS OF FEET ABOVE THE EARTH! FALLING AT TREMENDOUS SPEED!

I'LL BE KILLED!

KILLED!

KILLED!!!

BUTHWOOOM!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

IS THERE *ANYTHING* THAT CAN HURT ME WHILE I'M THE HULK? I'M BEGINNING TO DOUBT IT.

IN FACT, I WONDER WHY I EVEN RAISE THE POINT. I KNOW OF THE AMAZING THINGS I...

...THE *HULK*... HAS DONE OVER THE YEARS.

THINGS THAT GAINED HIM THE REPUTATION: *THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!*

NOW THAT 'MIGHTY MORTAL' HAS THE INTELLECT AND EMOTIONS OF *DR. BRUCE BANNER!* I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL RICK AND BETTY!

RICK AND BETTY. WHEN LAST THEY SAW ME, I HAD TURNED INTO THE HULK TO BATTLE THE HULK-HUNTERS. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW LONG AGO THAT WAS. *

THEY MUST BE WONDERING WHETHER I'M ALIVE OR DEAD.

*A COUPLE OF DAYS -- TIME-WISE AL.

I MUST RETURN TO THE DESERT-- REASSURE THEM-- TELL THEM THE WONDERFUL NEWS...

...THAT THE WORLD NEED NO LONGER *FEAR* THE INCREDIBLE *HULK!*

SOMETHING CATCHES THE JADE GIANT'S ATTENTION...

10

...THE SOUNDS OF AXES BITING WOOD, THE HIGH WHINE OF ELECTRIC POWER-SAWS, THE CRASHING OF TALL TREES AND THE LAUGHTER OF FRENCH-CANADIAN LOGGERS.

A LUMBER CAMP!

HEY, JACQUES, WOULD IT NOT BE TRÉS MAGNIFIQUE IF ALL ONE HAD TO DO WAS **BLOW**, AND ALL ZE TREES WOULD FALL DOWN?

ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE QUITE A **BLOWHARD**, PIERRE!

AH, YOU MAKE FUN! BUT-- JUST IMAGINE! I FILL MY LUNGS WITH AIR--

--AND...

WHHH--

--FWWWW--

-WHROOSSHH!

M-MON DIEU!

ZE--ZE WHOLE FOREST, PIERRE? ZE WHOLE FOREST?!?

MÉS AMIS, WE ARE ALL GOING TO BE TRÈS RICH!!

SO THAT'S WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO HAVE POWER--

--AND USE IT TO HELP! MAYBE RICK WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL. MAYBE THE WORLD CAN USE A HULK NOT BENT ON DESTRUCTION.

NOT THAT THE HULK EVER INTENDED THE HARM HE CAUSED.

HE WAS USUALLY GOADED INTO IT BY THE MALEVOLENT MACHINATIONS OF OTHERS.

ANYWAY, THOSE LOGGERS WILL BE QUITE BUSY GETTING ALL THOSE TREES TO MILL--

--SO NO ONE WILL NOTICE IF THE HULK BORROWS SOME CLOTHING!

LISTEN TO ME! I'M STILL THINKING OF THE HULK IN THE THIRD-PERSON... AS IF HE WERE SOMEONE APART FROM ME!

NOT ANYMORE! I'M THE HULK--

--AND I'M BRUCE BANNER!

THE SAME BRAIN GUIDES BOTH. ONE CAN BENEFIT THE WORLD THROUGH SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY--

--WHILE THE OTHER CAN DO GREAT GOOD BY VIRTUE OF HIS INCREDIBLE STRENGTH.

A NEW DAY IS DAWNING IN THE LIFE OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

ACTUALLY, THE SUN IS JUST STARTING TO SET, BUT WHO AMONG US WOULD DARE QUIBBLE WITH BRUCE BANNER... THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON EARTH?

12

FEARING NO HARM (FOR WHAT IS THERE THAT THE INCREDIBLE HULK NEED FEAR?) BRUCE BANNER FOLLOWS HIS INCLINATIONS, AND THE STARS, THROUGH THE DARK CANADIAN NIGHT. THEY LEAD HIM TO A NARROW TWO-LANE BLACKTOP.

FARM COUNTRY. HECTARE AFTER HECTARE OF WHEAT. CANADA'S BREADBASKET.

I AM HUNGRY. BEING THE HULK EXPENDS A LOT OF ENERGY.

PERHAPS HERE I'LL FIND SOMETHING TO EAT!

THE HIGHWAY ABRUPTLY ENDS...

...IN A BARRICADE OF SANDBAGS.

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ARMED CAMP!

SUDDENLY, ANGRY FIGURES LEAP FROM THE TALL STALKS OF WHEAT ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ROAD.

WHAT--?!

FARMERS--JUMPING OUT AT ME--PINNING MY ARMS! I COULD BECOME THE HULK--*SMASH* THEM ALL...!

NO! WHAT AM I THINKING? I'M NOT A *MONSTER!* I'M NOT!

WHO *ARE* YOU? WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS TO ME?

EASY, LADS! IT'S ONLY SOME STRANGER--

--NOT ONE OF... *THEM!*

WHO ARE *THEY?* WHAT IS IT YOU'RE *AFRAID* OF?

13

THE LOCUSTS, MAN! THE LOCUSTS FROM THE STARS!

BRUCE BANNER STARES HARD INTO THESE FEAR-FILLED FACES. THEY SEEM LIKE STURDY, WORKING FOLK, NOT GIVEN TO DELUSION.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, DO YOU, MISTER?

I DIDN'T SAY...

YOUR EYES DID. BUT CAST 'EM OVER THAT WAY--

--AND EXPLAIN TO US WHAT KIND OF EARTH INSECTS COULD DO ...THAT!

THE FIELD HAS BEEN RECENTLY HARVESTED...

...IN A PERFECTLY GEOMETRICAL SWATH.

BEFORE BRUCE BANNER CAN FORMULATE SOME RESPONSE TO THE BIZARRE SIGHT, AN UNEARTHLY HUM FILLS THE AIR.

THE LOCUSTS FROM THE STARS-- THEY'VE RETURNED!

INDEED.

LIKE SOME INCREDIBLE IRIDESCENT DRAGONFLY, THE HUMMING STAR-CRAFT DESCENDS TOWARDS THE WAVING WHEATFIELDS.

AS THE FARMERS CRY OUT IN DESPAIR, AN ABDOMEN HATCH OPENS... AND A HOST OF CLICKING CREATURES DROP DOWN ON SLENDER STRANDS OF FILAMENT...

14

...AND BEGIN TO EAT.

TCHIK TIK SKRIK TCHRIK

THEY'RE EATING OUR LIVLIHOOD!

WITHOUT A CROP--WE'LL STARVE!

THEY'RE TAKING WHAT THEY LEFT LAST NIGHT!

KILL THEM! KILL THEM!

ORDINARILY, ONE WOULD COMBAT LOCUSTS WITH INSECTICIDES OR FIRE. EXTRAORDINARY LOCUSTS CALL FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY MEASURES.

SQUEEE

SLASH

PTOW

THEN AGAIN, ORDINARY LOCUSTS DON'T FIGHT BACK BY DESTROYING THE VERY WEAPONS MEANT TO DESTROY THEM.

SQUEE

ZREET

MY AXE!

MY GUN!

RAY-BURSTS FROM THOSE INSECTS' ANTENNAE--CAPABLE OF DISINTEGRATING WHATEVER THEY TOUCH!

YOU'LL BE KILLED IF YOU DON'T RETREAT!

WE'LL DIE ANYWAY IF THE CROP'S DESTROYED! BETTER TO DIE DEFENDING IT--

--THAN TO WAIT FOR SLOW STARVATION!

SUCH COURAGE! SUCH DETERMINATION!

THESE PEOPLE HAVE WORKED AND SLAVED TO COAX A LIVING OUT OF THE EARTH--AND NOW IT'S BEING TAKEN FROM THEM BY CREATURES NOT OF THE EARTH AT ALL!

I'VE GOT TO HELP THEM!

15

NO! NOT ME! NOT BRUCE BANNER!

ALL IT TAKES IS A THOUGHT.

A THOUGHT THAT TRIGGERS A CHANGE.

A CHANGE FROM A MAN...

...INTO SOMETHING GREATER THAN A MAN.

NOW THE INCREDIBLE HULK WILL HELP!

HE'D BETTER HURRY.

THE LOCUSTS HAVE DESTROYED ALL OUR WEAPONS! NOW THEY'RE TURNING ON US!

NO!

A MORE SAVAGE, SIMPLEMINDED HULK WOULD HAVE LEAPT INTO BATTLE WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION.

A HULK POSSESSING THE BRAIN OF BRUCE BANNER WEIGHS STRATEGIES, DECIDES UPON A PLAN OF ATTACK.

IN THE END, THE RESULT IS EXACTLY THE SAME.

HAVE NO FEAR, FRIENDS!

THE HULK WON'T ALLOW THE ALIENS TO DESTROY YOUR CROP!

16

SQUEEEEEEEE

THAT'S RIGHT, INSECT--I'M *NOT* LIKE THE OTHERS!

I CAN'T BE TERRORIZED BY YOUR ALIENNESS, YOUR NUMBERS, OR YOUR DEADLY ANTENNAE-RAYS!

I'M THE *HULK!* I FEAR *NOTHING!*

SQUEEZREET

ARRGHH!

I SHOULD HAVE ADDED THAT, THOUGH I'M NOT *TOTALLY* IMPERVIOUS TO PAIN--

--IT DOES *NOT* IMMOBILIZE ME! RATHER, IT USUALLY GALVANIZES ME INTO ACTION...

...AND *ANGER!*

AND, AS I'M SURE I MUST HAVE SAID COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST--

SQ.

--THE MADDER THE HULK GETS, THE *STRONGER* HE GETS!

EEEEEEEEEE

17

AT THAT POINT, THE HOVERING MOTHER-SHIP OVERHEAD, ENTERS INTO THE FRAY.

VREEE

GGAARRGGHH!!

NOW THAT HURT.

CONCURRENTLY, IT ALSO SET THE FIELDS AFIRE.

IMMEDIATELY THE ALIENS ARE FORGOTTEN. A GREATER DANGER THREATENS THE CROPS.

UNDER COVER OF THE RISING SMOKE, THE LOCUSTS REATTACH THEMSELVES TO THEIR SHIMMERING STRANDS...

...AND RETURN TO THE MOTHER-SHIP.

NO! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ESCAPE THAT EASILY! NOT AFTER ALL THE DAMAGE YOU'VE WROUGHT!

YOU CAN'T GO SO HIGH THAT I CAN'T *LEAP* AFTER YOU!

AND THERE'S NO METAL ON OR OFF EARTH THAT CAN KEEP ME FROM *REACHING* YOU!

18

YOU HURT ME!

TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY, MY INSECT-LIKE FRIEND!

SQUIK...!

YOUR BLOOD'S AS GREEN AS MINE! DOES THAT MAKE US BROTHERS UNDER THE SKIN?

NO, I FORGOT-- YOU DON'T HAVE SKIN! YOU'RE COVERED WITH A CHITINOUS CARAPACE--

--WHICH I ENJOY HEARING CRACK!

THE FORCE OF THE HULK'S BLOW DRIVES A LOCUST AWAY FROM HIM...

...AND THROUGH A TRANSPARENT SCREEN THAT SHATTERS--

--SHOWERING THE INTERIOR OF THE SHIP WITH... SEED!

SEED?

YES, EARTHLING-- SEED.

A VOICE INSIDE MY HEAD --COMMUNICATING WITH ME TELEPATHICALLY! WHO--?

19

I AM BA'T'LL... QUEEN OF THE INSECTOIDS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME? I CAN'T MOVE!

IT WAS NECESSARY TO IMMOBILIZE YOU, TO CALM YOUR RAGE--

--SO THAT YOU WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF OUR MISSION.

YOU SEE, WE DID NOT COME TO CAUSE HUNGER TO THE PEOPLE OF YOUR PLANET-- BUT TO END THEIR HUNGER FOR ALL TIME.

YOU TOOK THEIR CROPS!

OPEN YOUR MIND. PERCEIVE...

"... OUR WORLD, COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS FROM YOUR OWN. WE HAD CREATED A VAST AND BENEFICENT CIVILIZATION.

"THEN OUR FOOD RAN OUT.

"THE WORLDS IN OUR SYSTEM HAD BEEN FARMED OUT. THEIR SOIL WOULD NO LONGER NURTURE LIFE.

"TO ASSUAGE OUR HUNGER, WE HAD TO TRAVEL EVER FARTHER AFIELD."

STEALING THE FOOD OF OTHERS SO THAT YOU COULD SURVIVE.

TAKING WHAT WE NEEDED FOR OUR IMMEDIATE SUBSISTENCE, YES --BUT *PAYING* FOR IT...

...WITH THE ***SUPER-SEED*** DEVELOPED BY OUR SCIENTISTS EONS AGO.

ONCE PLANTED, IT WOULD YIELD AN ABUNDANCE TO FEED YOUR PLANET FOR MILLENIA TO COME!

20

IF IT CAN DO WHAT YOU SAY, WHY DIDN'T YOU PLANT IT ON YOUR WORLD--GROW ENOUGH TO FEED YOUR PEOPLE?

I TOLD YOU--OUR SOIL WAS DEPLETED. WE HAD TO FIND OTHER, SOIL-RICH WORLDS... SUCH AS YOURS.

SO YOU WOULD HAVE REPLACED THOSE CROPS YOU TOOK... WITH *SUPER-SEED*?

YES. ONCE THE FIELDS HAD BEEN PREPARED, WE WOULD HAVE FERRIED THE SEED DOWN TO THE SURFACE OF YOUR PLANET.

THERE, WE WOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOUR PEOPLE SECRETS OF NURTURING THE SUPER-SEED KNOWN ONLY TO WE INSECTOIDS.

WITH THE FIRST HARVEST, HUNGER WOULD HAVE BECOME A THING OF MEMORY ON EARTH.

IN EXCHANGE FOR THE GIFT OF PLENTY, ALL WE WOULD HAVE ASKED WOULD BE THAT EARTH GROW *OUR* FOOD AS WELL AS ITS OWN.

YOU TELL ME ALL THIS IN THE *PAST TENSE!* CAN'T IT STILL BE DONE?

ALAS, NO. EXPOSED TO AIR, THE SUPER-SEED RAPIDLY DEGENERATES.

YOU, O'MAN, DESTROYED THE AIR-TIGHT CANNISTER IN WHICH IT WAS CONTAINED!

I-I THOUGHT EARTH WAS UNDER ATTACK! I FOUGHT BACK!

I-I DIDN'T KNOW!

NO, YOU DID NOT-- AND YOUR SAVAGE IGNORANCE HAS DEPRIVED YOUR WORLD OF SURCREASE FROM THE RELENTLESS SCOURGE OF HUNGER FOR GENERATIONS!

ONE DAY WE MAY RETURN WITH A NEW CARGO OF *SUPER-SEED*.

21

PERHAPS YOU AND YOUR KIND WILL GREET US MORE *WISELY* THEN?

YES.

PERHAPS.

LISTEN. I HAVE *SOMETHING* TO TELL YOU.

WE HEARD. THE INSECTOID QUEEN 'SPOKE' IN *OUR* MINDS AS WELL.

THEN YOU KNOW THAT, ONCE THEY'D CLEARED YOUR FIELDS, THEY WOULD HAVE PLANTED A RICHER HARVEST HERE THAN ANY MAN HAS EVER KNOWN.

AND I, THINKING I WAS DOING GREAT GOOD, INADVERTANTLY DESTROYED THAT DREAM FOR EONS TO COME.

WE FOUGHT THE INSECTOIDS, TOO, MISTER. WE WERE JUST AS IGNORANT... JUST AS BLIND. BUT THEY COULD HAVE ***STOPPED*** US.

NOTHING COULD STOP ***YOU!*** WITH AS MUCH ***POWER*** AS YOU'VE GOT, YOU'D BETTER LEARN TO ***USE*** IT WISELY--

--OTHERWISE YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ANYTHING BUT A... ***HULK!***

22

NEXT MONTH: **HOME THE HARD WAY!**

WHEREIN BRUCE BANNER CONTINUES TO LEARN HOW TO COPE WITH HIS DUAL EXISTENCE AS THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

60¢ | 274 AUG 02456

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TM

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

MILGROM

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BILL MANTLO / SCRIPTER | SAL BUSCEMA / BREAKDOWNS | JOE SINNOTT / FINISHES | JIM NOVAK, LETTERS / BOB SHAREN, COLORS | AL MILGROM / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / CHIEF

HOME THE HARD WAY!

LOGS.

LOTS OF LOGS.

DID YOU EVER THINK YOU'D OPEN AN ISSUE OF **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** TO SEE OUR GREAT GREEN GARGANTUA HAULING ... **LOGS?**

IT'S A SIGHT THE PEOPLE OF **ST. CLAIR, CANADA** NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D SEE, EITHER.

GAS

EAT

M-MON DIEU!

BUT, IF YOU WEREN'T HERE LAST MONTH, THEN YOU DON'T KNOW THAT THIS IS A DECIDEDLY **DIFFERENT** HULK THAN ANY YOU'VE EVER SEEN.

YES, DUE TO COUNTLESS **GAMMA RAY TREATMENTS** AND THE INTERVENTION OF A SCIENTIFICALLY ASTUTE **TALKING TURTLE...***

*UNCLE PYKO IN HULK #271--AL.

...THIS **NEW** HULK IS POSSESSED OF THE **INTELLIGENCE** AND **PERSONA** OF **DR. BRUCE BANNER**, ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST PHYSICISTS.

IT'S **BRUCE BANNER** WHO'S GOT THE POWER OF THE HULK NOW, AND HE WANTS TO USE IT TO **HELP**...

...AFTER **MISUSING** THAT POWER BY DRIVING THE **INSECTOIDS** AWAY FROM EARTH, ONLY TO LEARN THAT THEIR PURPOSE IN COMING HERE--

--WAS TO END **HUNGER** FOR ALL TIME!

*LAST ISH--AL.

YES, HE'D LEARNED, ALL RIGHT, WHEN HE STARED INTO THE EYES OF THE **FARMERS** WHOSE CROPS HE THOUGHT HE'D BEEN DEFENDING.

YOU'RE **STRONG**, MISTER! YOU DROVE OFF THE **ALIENS** BEFORE FINDING OUT WHAT IT WAS THEY'D **COME** FOR!

WITH AS MUCH **POWER** AS YOU'VE GOT, YOU'D BETTER LEARN HOW TO **USE** IT--

--OTHERWISE, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ANYTHING BUT A... **HULK!**

AS A MONSTER **WITH** A MIND, HE'D DONE JUST AS MUCH DAMAGE AS ONE **WITHOUT**!

BUT NOW HE HOPES TO MAKE **AMENDS**.

THERE'S THE **SAW-MILL!**

2

AND A BUSY LITTLE MILL IT'S BEEN, TOO, SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING.

PIERRE, I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MUCH WOOD COME OUT OF YOUR CAMP! HOW DID YOU MANAGE IT? AND NO *JOKES!*

I AM TELLING YOU, MONSIEUR, WHAT I SAID TO JACQUES.

"WOULD IT NOT BE TRÈS MAGNIFIQUE IF ALL ONE 'AD TO DO WAS *BLOW--*"

PFFFFT!

OFFICE

"--AND ALL ZE TREES WOULD JUST *FALL DOWN?*"

JACQUES SAID I WOULD 'AVE TO BE QUITE A *BLOWHARD* --BUT IT *HAPPENED*, MONSIEUR!

VOILÀ!

YES, IT *DID* HAPPEN, JUST AS PIERRE DESCRIBES IT...

...WITH A LITTLE *HELP* FROM THE LUNGS OF AN *UNSEEN HULK!*

NOW WE WOULD LIKE TO 'AVE YOU *MILL* OUR LUMBER, AND MAKE US ALL *TRÈS RICH!*

AH, PARDONNÉZ MOI, PIERRE--

--BUT I THINK PERHAPS THERE IS ABOUT TO BE A *GLUT* ON ZE MARKET!

EH? NÒN! *NÒN!* IT CANNOT BE! C'EST IMPOSSÌBLE!

3

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, PIERRE? NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE...

...FOR THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

A-A MONSTER--HAULING HUNDREDS OF TONS OF LOGS DOWN MAIN STREET?!

THOUSANDS OF TONS, ACTUALLY...

BUT I'LL OVERLOOK YOUR CALLING ME A MONSTER IF YOU'LL GUARANTEE THESE GOOD PEOPLE A FAIR PRICE ON THEIR LUMBER.

THE FAIREST! WITH THIS LOAD, AND PIERRE'S, I'LL BEAT ALL MY COMPETITORS TO MARKET!

WE'LL ALL BE IN CLOVER FOR THE NEXT SIX WINTERS TO COME!

IT'S A GREAT THING YOU'VE DONE FOR US, YOUNG ...MAN!

WITH OUR WHEAT HARVEST DESTROYED, WE THOUGHT WE'D STARVE FOR CERTAIN.

PLEASE... IT'S I WHO SHOULD BE THANKING YOU--

--FOR TEACHING ME THAT WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT BEFORE, BUT SELDOM WITH SO MUCH PASSION.

4

DON'T BERATE YOURSELF OVER WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE *ALIENS*. NO ONE KNEW *WHAT* IT WAS THEY'D COME TO DO.

WE *ALL* FOUGHT THEM IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE OUR CROPS!

BUT ONLY *I* HAD THE *POWER* TO REACH THEIR SHIP--TO UNWITTINGLY DESTROY THE *SUPER-SEED*...

...WHICH WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED *WORLD HUNGER* FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS.

AND A HULK POSSESSING A *BRAIN* DID THAT... NOT THE HULK WHO WAS A *MONSTER!*

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE *EVER* A MONSTER!

OH, BUT I *WAS*--A SAVAGE, SNARLING ENGINE OF SHEER, WANTON *DESTRUCTION!*

IN SOME OF MY MORE RIOTOUS RAMPAGES I TERRORIZED ENTIRE *CITIES*, ENTIRE *NATIONS!*

AT TIMES, THE *WHOLE WORLD* LIVED IN *MORTAL FEAR OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!*

5

I REMEMBER IT ALL AS IF IT WERE SOME HORRIBLE *DREAM!*

BUT IT *WASN'T* A DREAM! WHEN I WOKE UP, THE SIGNS OF THE *HAVOC* I'D WREAKED AS THE *HULK* WERE ALL AROUND ME!

THE *MAN* TRAPPED INSIDE THE *MONSTER* SOUGHT A *CURE*, BUT MY MOMENTS OF *HUMANITY* WERE FEW--

--AND ALWAYS INTERRUPTED BY REVERSION TO A RAGING *HULK!* I WAS NEVER *HUMAN* LONG ENOUGH TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!

SACRÉ BLEU! LOOK--!

BUT NOW I *CAN* BE HUMAN AGAIN, *ANYTIME* I WANT!

SWEET HEAVEN ABOVE...!

--OR, WITH BUT A *THOUGHT*--

--THE *MAN* CAN AGAIN *RETREAT*--

--AND GIVE WAY TO THE AWESOME, ALL-POWERFUL--

--*HULK!*

DON'T BE AFRAID. I'M STILL *BRUCE BANNER* --STILL IN *CONTROL!*

THE *HULK* SIDE OF MY PERSONA IS *GONE*-- *FOREVER!*

WE'RE *NOT* AFRAID OF YOU! YOU'VE *HELPED* US! WON'T YOU *STAY?*

STAY? YOU'RE VERY KIND. BUT, NO--THERE ARE *TWO FRIENDS* WITH WHOM I MUST SHARE THIS MOMENTOUS *NEWS!*

BETTY AND *RICK* MUST BE WONDERING IF I'M EVEN *ALIVE!*

6

BUT THINK WELL OF ME--KEEP ME IN YOUR HEARTS!

I'LL NEED YOUR *PRAYERS*--

--IF *THE INCREDIBLE HULK* IS TO FIND HIS *WAY* IN THE WORLD!

MIGHTY LEG MUSCLES UNFLEX, AND THE GREEN GOLIATH LEAPS HEAVENWARD.

*PROPELLED MANY LEAGUES IN A SINGLE BOUND, HE TURNS AND WAVES **FAREWELL** BEFORE VANISHING INTO THE DISTANCE.*

*IN HIS WAKE, THE POPULACE OF ST. CLAIR BIDS HIM GODSPEED. THEY **WILL** PRAY FOR HIM...*

*...PETITIONING THE ALMIGHTY THAT THIS MAN-MONSTER WHO HAS WALKED AMONG THEM WILL FIND THE **PEACE** HE SEEKS.*

PEACE.** IT WILL BE A NEW EXPERIENCE IN THE LIFE OF **THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

LOOK AT ME! I'M BURSTING WITH *POWER*--A *LIVING DYNAMO!*

7

HOW MANY *KILOMETERS* DO I COVER IN A SINGLE *LEAP*? FIFTY? A HUNDRED? *MORE*??

IT SHOULD BE A SIMPLE *EQUATION* TO FIGURE OUT...

BUT I DON'T WANT TO *ANALYZE* -- I WANT TO *ENJOY!*

HOW MANY OTHER *MORTALS* CAN THRILL TO THE SENSATION OF LEAPING HIGHER THAN THE CLOUDS?

THOR? WELL, HE'S A *GOD*! *IRON MAN*? HIS *ARMOR* FLIES!

EVERYONE ELSE NEEDS *WINGS* OR *JETS* OR SOME *STRANGE* POWER!

ME-- I DO IT WITH MY *MUSCLES!*

WHAT A GLORIOUS, INEXPRESSIBLE *FEELING!*

FROM ON HIGH, THE EMERALD EYES OF THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL SPY A TRAIN APPROACHING A TRESTLE.

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG!

8

INDEED, THE SPRING THAW HAS SWOLLEN THE RIVER BELOW, AND THE FLOOD HAS SWEPT DEBRIS AGAINST THE TRESTLE, STRUCTURALLY WEAKENING IT.

THE HULK HAS SEEN THE DANGER.

THE ENGINEER OF THE APPROACHING TRAIN HAS NOT.

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO AVERT A DISASTER!

NOM DU NOM! ANDRE, LOOK! LEAPING TOWARD ZE BRIDGE--

--IT IS ZE AMERICAN MONSTER THAT MEN CALL... HULK!

150

I SEE MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME! WELL, THEY'LL THINK BETTER OF ME AFTER I'VE --

--SAVED THEM?

LORD, NO! MY GREAT WEIGHT WAS TOO MUCH FOR THE WEAKENED TRESTLE TO SUPPORT!

KRUMBLE

SPLASH

9

"AND THE TRAIN IS PLUNGING THROUGH THE GAP I CREATED!"

THE MONSTER WRECKED THE BRIDGE!

WE'LL BE KILLED! KILLED!

AIEEEEE!

NO! HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE--MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN--WILL DIE BECAUSE OF MY MISCALCULATION! IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO!

WAIT! BECAUSE I THINK LIKE HIM, I'D FORGOTTEN THAT I'M NOT THE HELPLESS BRUCE BANNER ANYMORE!

I'M THE HULK--AND THE HULK CAN DO ANYTHING!

FILLED WITH DETERMINATION, THE JADE GIANT LEAPS TOWARDS THE PLUNGING TRAIN.

ANDRE, WE--WE'VE STOPPED FALLING!

BUT HOW IS IT POSSIBLE--?!

MEN HAVE CALLED HIM **MONSTER**, AND HAVE RUN FROM HIM IN ABJECT **FEAR**, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER **DENIED**, AS THEY HUNTED HIM AND HOUNDED HIM--

--THAT FOR **THE INCREDIBLE HULK**, ANYTHING IS **POSSIBLE!**

SOON...

FIRST YOU DESTROY THE *BRIDGE*, TERRORIZING US--THEN YOU *SAVE* US AND SET THE TRAIN BACK ON ITS TRACKS! WHY?

WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU?!

I SAW THE TRESTLE ABOUT TO COLLAPSE! I LEAPED DOWN TO *HELP!*

I ONLY WANTED TO DO *GOOD--!*

MOMMY! MAKE HIM STAY BACK! MAKE THE *GREEN MAN* STAY AWAY!

I-I WON'T LET HIM *HURT* YOU, DARLING!

HOW CAN YOU *STOP* HIM?

HOW CAN *ANYBODY* STAND AGAINST THAT SAVAGE SLAVERING *MONSTER?*

MONSTER? HULK *SAVES* YOUR LIVES, AND PUNY HUMANS CALL HULK *MONSTER?!*

L-LOOK OUT! HE'S COMING TOWARDS US!

THERE'S *MURDER* IN HIS EYES!

RUN! GET THE KIDS TO *SAFETY!*

YES, *RUN!* HULK WILL DRIVE *PUNY HUMANS* BEFORE HIM LIKE...!

WAIT! WHAT AM I *SAYING?!* I'M *NOT* A MONSTER--I'M A *MAN!*

I-I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY--TO *THINK!*

AGAIN TENDONS LIKE COILED-STEEL CABLES UNWIND AND CARRY THE HULK AWAY.

THIS TIME, THERE ARE PRAYERS OF ANOTHER KIND BEHIND HIM.

THANK YOU FOR SAVING US FROM BEING SLAUGHTERED...!

12

FAR AWAY...

WHAT *HAPPENED* TO ME BACK THERE? I MUST HAVE BEEN *OUT OF MY MIND!*

OR MAYBE I WAS TOO MUCH *IN* MY MIND? MAYBE THE *HULK SIDE* OF MY PERSONA ISN'T *DEAD*--

--BUT ONLY DEEPLY *SUBMERGED* WITHIN MY SUBCONSCIOUS--

--BUT NOT *SO* DEEP THAT A MOMENTARY FIT OF RAGE CAN'T *DREDGE* IT UP!

IF I'M TO *USE* THE POWERS OF THE *HULK*, I'LL HAVE TO KEEP A TIGHTER REIN ON MY *EMOTIONS* THAN EVER BEFORE--

--BECAUSE FROM NOW ON I WON'T HAVE THE *EXCUSE* OF ACTING OUT OF *IGNORANCE* OR *MINDLESSNESS!*

AHEAD, THE HULK SPIES A BORDER-CROSSING BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. HE COULD EASILY LEAP OVER IT...

...BUT, IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS, THE *MONSTER* WISHES TO RETURN *HOME* --AS A *MAN.*

THWOOM!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT CHECKPOINT... *HOME!*

CANADA

...MUST BE GREAT TROUT FISHING BACK HOME IN MONTANA. WISH I WERE *THERE* INSTEAD OF *HERE*...

...WHERE NOTHING *UNUSUAL* EVER HAPPENS!

BOR
POL

BRIGHTEN UP, FRIEND. TODAY'S *YOUR* DAY FOR THE *EXTRA-ORDINARY.*

13

HEY, HOBO! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

HOME!

BACK WHERE I BELONG.

OH, NO, YOU'RE NOT! NOT THE WAY YOU'RE DRESSED!

OR THE WAY YOU'RE NOT DRESSED!

DO YOU GENTLEMEN HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?

WELL, YOU'RE SURE NOT RONALD REAGAN OR PIERRE TRUDEAU!

NO, MY NAME IS BANNER-- DR. BRUCE BANNER!

B-BANNER? YOU MEAN, THE FAMOUS SCIEN-TIST--

--WHO BE-COMES THE HULK?!

YES.

NOW WILL YOU KINDLY STAND ASIDE--

--AND LET ME GO HOME?!

HE'D WANTED TO RETURN AS A MAN...

...BUT IT'S AS A MONSTER THAT HE CROSSES THE BORDER.

PTOW

POW

POW

THIS IS BIG RIVER CHECKPOINT ONE! TELL THE GOVER-NOR HE'D BETTER CALL OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD!

THE HULK HAS JUST INVADED AMERICA!

ALONE ...AND ON FOOT!

14

SOMEWHAT TO THE SOUTH, A STRANGE SPACECRAFT SCREAMS OVER THE NEW MEXICO DESERT.

IT IS THE BANSHEE CRAFT!

VREEEE

ITS DESTINATION: GAMMA BASE!

VREEEE

AT ITS HELM--A VERITABLE PART OF THE SHIP ITSELF--SITS THE BANSHEE CRAFT'S CREATOR...

GLEEP

BEREET-- TECHNO-ARTIST FROM THE PLANET KRYLOR.

HER PASSENGERS ARE A TRAUMATIZED BETTY ROSS...

...AND THE GAMMA-IRRADIATED --AND DYING-- RICK JONES!

THE BANSHEE CRAFT HITS THE RUNWAY AND STOPS SCREAMING...

...AS IT RETRACTS INTO A BANSHEE MASK IN ITS CREATOR'S THREE-FINGERED HANDS.

THAT WAS THE MOST AMAZING THING...

...YOU'VE EVER SEEN. I CAN IMAGINE.

STILL, IT IS BUT ONE OF THE LESSER CREATIONS STORED IN MY SPATIAL DISTORTER HIP-BAG. YET IT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE IN BRINGING ME TO EARTH, AND US TO... THIS PLACE.

GAMMA BASE!

15

AKIN·GARVEY

I ACCUMULATED A LOT OF *BAD MEMORIES* HERE.

IT APPEARS TO BE DESERTED.

IT IS. THE GOVERNMENT SHUT IT DOWN AFTER MY FATHER, *GENERAL "THUNDER-BOLT" ROSS*, SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAK DOWN--

--AND AFTER MY EX-HUSBAND, *GLENN TALBOT*, DADDY'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND, MET HIS DEATH--

--HUNTING DOWN *BRUCE BANNER*... THE MAN I *LOVE*!

16

INTERESTING BACKGROUND FOR THE TECHNO-ART *DOCUMENTARY FILM* I PLAN TO MAKE ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE *HULK--*

--AFTER WE SAVE THE *LIFE* OF ONE OF MY STARS... *RICK JONES!*

HOW *ARE* WE TO DO THAT?

I-I DON'T KNOW! THERE MUST BE *MACHINERY* HERE TO CURE *GAMMA RAY POISONING!*

THAT'S WHAT THE BASE WAS *CREATED* FOR!

SLEEPLE!

WHY, STURKY, YOU'RE *UPSET!*

NERVOUS ABOUT BEING ON EARTH?

YOU POOR DEAR, YOU'RE ABLE TO *CALM* EVERYBODY BUT YOURSELF!

GLEEP!

THERE IS A REASON FOR THE ANGST OF BEREET'S PET-- A REASON HOVERING OVER-HEAD, UNSEEN, ON JET-BLACK WINGS!

MEANWHILE, A FEW HUNDRED MILES TO THE NORTH...

CAN'T WE DISCUSS THIS LIKE REASONABLE MEN?

Y-YOU MAKE ONE *FALSE MOVE*, MONSTER, AND WE'LL *BLOW* YOU TO *KINGDOM COME!*

17

THESE **NATIONAL GUARDSMEN** ARE WEEKEND-WARRIORS -- **CHILDREN** WHOSE BRAVADO COMES FROM TOO LITTLE TRAINING AND TOO MANY JOHN FORD WESTERNS.

THEY HAVE NEVER HAD TO FACE A **MONSTER** IN WHOM THEY BARELY BELIEVED.

LOOK, LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING WE'LL **REGRET** LATER!

NOT ANOTHER **STEP**, MONSTER! THE **GOVERNOR** HAS GIVEN ME **ORDERS** TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU DON'T **DESTROY** THIS STATE!

WHY DON'T YOU GET THE GOVERNOR ON THE PHONE AND LET ME **TALK** TO HIM...?

LOOK! HE'S RAISED HIS **ARM**! HE'S GETTING READY TO **STRIKE**!

SAFETYS CLICK OFF...

...AND THE HILLS COME ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF *THUNDER*!

I'D HOPED TO **AVOID** ALL THIS!

18

RESIGNEDLY, LOOKING NEITHER TO THE RIGHT NOR THE LEFT, THE INCREDIBLE HULK WADES INTO THE ONSLAUGHT.

OUR SHELLS ARE JUST BOUNCING *OFF* HIM!

WHAT'S HE *MADE* OF?!

HE'S RIGHT ON *TOP* OF US!

RUN! *RUN!*

MAMA!

THE HULK WADES THROUGH THE GUNSMOKE...

...AND CONTINUES ON DOWN THE HIGHWAY.

THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN STARE, MYSTIFIED, IN HIS WAKE.

H-HE'S *IGNORING* US! HE'S LETTING US *LIVE!*

19

BLAST YOU, MONSTER-- YOU CAN'T JUST *HUMBLE* AN ENTIRE NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AND *WALK AWAY!*

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH YOU? WHY DON'T YOU *FIGHT?* WHY DON'T YOU *SMASH OUT* AT US?!

WHY DID YOU COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?!

I ALREADY TOLD YOU...

I ONLY WANT TO GO *HOME.*

20

THEN THE MIGHTY **HULK** GATHERS HIMSELF UP AND LEAPS...

THE PATHOS IN HIS FACE TELLS THE TALE: HE HAD WANTED A **PEACE-FUL** HOMECOMING...

...HE HAS FOUND ONLY **STRIFE.**

PERHAPS HE CHOSE THE **WRONG PATH** HOME.

THESE **MOUNTAINS** ARE STRANGE TO HIM. HE LONGS FOR THE **DESERT** WHERE HIS **FRIENDS** AWAIT HIM...

...THE **DESERT** WHERE HE WAS **BORN.**

OMTHROOM THROOM THROOM THROOM THROOM

21

WITH EACH DESCENT, HIS LEAPS SHATTER THE DRY DESERT GROUND BENEATH HIS FEET, CREATING **CRATERS.**

FROM **ONE** OF THOSE CRATERS, **SOMETHING** BEGINS TO EMERGE.

FIRST A **HAND**, SLEEK AND SILVER...

...POLISHED SMOOTHER THAN A DIAMOND BY ITS **PASSAGE** TO THE VERY **CENTER** OF THE EARTH.

I'VE **MADE** IT! I'M **BACK**!

IF THE **EARTH** COULDN'T HOLD ME--**NOTHING** CAN!

AND, IF **I** SURVIVED, MAYBE THE **OTHERS** DID, TOO!

I'VE GOTTA **FIND** 'EM--**REUNITE** 'EM!

THEN THE **U-FOES** WILL SEEK **REVENGE** ON THE **HULK**!

SO SWEARS **IRONCLAD!**

BUT FIRST **MEGALITH** AND THE MYSTERIOUS MENACE OF **JACKDAW**

60¢ | 275 SEPT 02456

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TM

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

THE MENACE OF MEGALITH!

MILGROM

STan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BILL MANTLO PLOT/SCRIPT | SAL BUSCEMA & JOE SINNOTT ART | JIM NOVAK LETTERS | BOB SHAREN COLORS | AL MILGROM EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER LEADER | MEGALITH & JACKDAW CREATED BY RICHARD KONKLE

WHEN SOMEBODY'S THAT BIG, YOU GOTTA CALL HIM...

MEGALITH!

IN RECENT DAYS, THERE HAS BEEN A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE LIFE OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

DUE TO CONTINUED GAMMA RAY EXPOSURE, THE MIND OF BRUCE BANNER NOW CONTROLS THE HULK!

WHETHER THAT HAS RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF A MORE HUMANE MONSTER, OR A MORE MONSTROUS MAN, IS, AS YET, TOO EARLY TO TELL!

IN A MERE MATTER OF HOURS, THE MIGHTIEST MUSCLES OF ANY MORTAL HAVE CARRIED THE HULK FROM THE CANADIAN BORDER TO THE NEW MEXICO DESERT.

IT WAS IN THIS DESERT, MANY YEARS AGO, THAT A GAMMA BOMB EXPLOSION FIRST TRANSFORMED DR. BRUCE BANNER INTO THE AWESOME INCREDIBLE HULK!

IT HAS, EVER SINCE, BEEN THIS DESERT THAT BOTH MAN AND MONSTER HAVE COME TO CALL...

HOME!!

THERE--MY CAVE LABORATORY BY THE SIDE OF A DESERT LAKE! HOW MANY YEARS I SPENT THERE, SEARCHING FOR A CURE THAT WOULD RID ME OF THE CURSE OF THE HULK!

BUT NOW I AM CURED!

THE HULK IS NO LONGER A SAVAGE, UNREASONING MONSTER!

BRUCE BANNER CAN NOW BECOME THE HULK AT WILL!

AND IT'S BANNER'S BRAIN--MY BRAIN--THAT CONTROLS THE CHANGE AND REMAINS ASCENDANT THROUGHOUT THE TRANSFORMATION!

BEFORE, BANNER AND THE HULK WERE TWO SEPARATE BEINGS--TWO DISTINCT IDENTITIES!

NOW BRUCE BANNER IS THE HULK!

I MUST TELL RICK JONES AND BETTY ROSS! THAT'S THE REASON I CAME BACK HERE!

THEY'LL BE OVERJOYED!

THEY CAME WITH ME TO RID THE WORLD OF THE MENACE OF THE HULK FOREVER--AND THAT MENACE HAS BEEN DESTROYED!

NOW THE HULK'S POWER CAN BE USED WISELY, RATIONALLY, FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF ALL MANKIND!

YES, A FORCE FOR *GOOD*--

--THAT I MIGHT UNDO ALL THE *BAD* THE HULK HAS INFLICTED ON HUMANITY IN THE PAST!

HMMM. THE LAB SEEMS DESERTED, NO SIGN OF BETTY OR RICK, THOUGH ALL THEIR EFFECTS ARE STILL HERE.

AND THERE'S MY *GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR*. NO NEED FOR THAT NOW THAT I CAN CONTROL MY TRANSFORMATIONS.

I'M STARVING! I DON'T REMEMBER WHEN I ATE LAST, AND AS THE HULK I EXPEND HUGE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY.

HUNGER NEVER SEEMED TO BOTHER THE HULK MUCH, THOUGH --NOTHING DID.

HE SEEMED CAPABLE OF GOING FOR DAYS-- WEEKS--WITHOUT SLEEP OR SUSTENANCE.

IT WAS *ANGER*-- COURSING THROUGH HIS GAMMA-IRRADIATED FRAME LIKE ADRENALIN--THAT GAVE HIM STRENGTH.

BUT *MAN* CAN'T LIVE JUST BY BEING *MAD* ALONE--AT LEAST, NOT *THIS* MAN!

NO, *BRUCE BANNER* HAS GOT TO EAT FOR *BOTH* HIMSELF AND THE HULK. IT'S A GOOD THING BETTY STOCKED THE PANTRY HERE AT THE LAB.

CORN

BEEF STEW

RIC

COLI

CHO

PIN

DRIED BEANS

STUFF

BUT WHERE ARE RICK AND BETTY? I'VE ONLY BEEN GONE A WEEK AT THE MOST.* SURELY THEY WOULD HAVE WAITED FOR MY RETURN...

*SINCE *HULK* # 269--AL.

EH? THE GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR CONSOLE IS *ON*-- AND THERE'S AN *ENERGY-READOUT!*

3

BUT I WASN'T HERE TO ACTIVATE IT--OR TO USE IT! GOOD LORD, THE ENERGY-OUTPUT READING GOES WAY OFF THE CHART!

SUCH AN ENORMOUS DOSAGE OF *GAMMA RAYS* COULD CAUSE UNTOLD DAMAGE TO HUMAN TISSUE!

THE CHART INDICATES ENOUGH ENERGY RELEASED TO HAVE CREATED ANOTHER... *HULK!*

THEN, BRUCE BANNER REMEMBERS...

*THE **HULK-HUNTERS** HAD ARRIVED AT THE DESERT LAB, SEEKING THE **HULK** AND FINDING HIM BY TRACKING HIS UNIQUE **GAMMA EMISSIONS**. THEY ONLY SOUGHT HIS AID, BUT **RICK** DIDN'T KNOW THAT.*

IT'S THREE AGAINST ONE!

THE *HULK* NEEDS *HELP!*

BETTY HAD ASKED THE OBVIOUS QUESTION, THOUGH A THEN-SAVAGE HULK DID NOT GRASP RICK'S ANSWER.

HELP? WHAT *KIND* OF HELP, RICK?

THE KIND THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND... *IN DOC BANNER'S LAB!*

NOW I KNOW WHAT RICK MEANT!

HOW BLIND I WAS NOT TO SEE IT BEFORE!

HE KEPT SAYING THAT I WAS WRONG TO *CURE* MYSELF OF BECOMING THE *HULK*--

--WHEN, BY GAINING *CONTROL* OF THE HULK--

--I COULD BECOME A POWERFUL FORCE FOR *GOOD!*

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT *HAPPENED*--

--BUT, UNABLE TO ANTICIPATE IT, AND CONVINCED THAT THE WORLD *NEEDED* AN INTELLIGENT HULK, RICK DETERMINED TO *GIVE* IT ONE...

HIMSELF!!

4

RICK EXPOSED HIMSELF TO GAMMA RAYS! TO HELP ME, HE TRIED TO BECOME A *SECOND* HULK!

LORD HELP ME, AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING A BOY WHO BEFRIENDED ME WHEN I WAS A SAVAGE BEAST, INTO... A *MONSTER*?!?

IT IS THE BRILLIANT *MIND* OF MASTER PHYSICIST BRUCE BANNER THAT INSTANTLY GRASPS WHAT MUST HAVE OCCURRED IN THE LAB...

...BUT IT IS THE *POWER* OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK THAT PROPELS THE GREAT GREEN GOLIATH OUT OF THE CAVE AND ACROSS THE DESERT...

...AND THE HULK'S *INSTINCT* THAT TELLS THE JADE GIANT WHERE IT IS HE HAS TO GO IN ORDER TO FIND AND AID HIS STRICKEN FRIEND!

5

GAMMA BASE!

YOU KNOW, BEREET, SOMETHING JUST OCCURRED TO ME...

YES, BETTY ROSS?

I KNEW GAMMA BASE HAD BEEN SHUT DOWN-- ABANDONED-- WHEN I SUGGESTED WE BRING RICK HERE FOR TREATMENT--

--BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THE MILITARY WOULD JUST WALK AWAY AND LEAVE ALL THIS ADVANCED EQUIPMENT UNGUARDED.

THEY DID NOT. AS SOON AS WE SET DOWN IN MY BANSHEE CRAFT I DISPATCHED *STURKY* ON AHEAD. HE *ATE* WHATEVER SECURITY DEVICES HE DISCOVERED.

GLURP!

I'M AFRAID IT GAVE THE POOR DEAR INDIGESTION.

YOUR KRYLORIAN *TECHNO-ART CREATIONS* ARE AMAZING, BEREET. THEY BROUGHT YOU TO EARTH, US TO GAMMA BASE, AND YOUR *SPIDER LIFE-SUPPORT COUCH* IS KEEPING *RICK* ALIVE--

--DESPITE THE MASSIVE DOSE OF *GAMMA RAYS* HE SUBJECTED HIMSELF TO BACK AT THE CAVE LAB!

YES, IT PREVENTS HIS CELLULAR DETERIORATION FROM GETTING ANY WORSE...

BUT RICK'S NOT GETTING ANY BETTER. I WAS HOPING WE'D FIND SOME MEANS HERE AT GAMMA BASE TO REVERSE THE RADIATION POISONING--

--BUT NEITHER OF US CAN FATHOM THESE MACHINES. IF ONLY BRUCE WERE HERE. HE'D KNOW WHAT TO DO.

YES, BRUCE BANNER IMPRESSED ME WITH HIS SCIENTIFIC GENIUS WHEN WE FIRST MET LO, THOSE MANY YEARS AGO.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO START IN ON *THAT* AGAIN, ARE YOU?

6

YOU *NEVER* MET BRUCE BANNER! YOU ONLY *OBSERVED* HIM AND RICK FROM A MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY--

--FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING SOME SILLY *MOVIE!*

SILLY? "*THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK*" HAS OUTGROSSED ANY FILM EVER MADE IN THE KRYLOR SYSTEM. IT GARNERED ME SEVEN *DRULIES*--THE EQUIVALENT OF YOUR *OSCAR*--

--AND MADE ME WEALTHY ENOUGH TO PURSUE THE MORE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF MY *TECHNO-ART.*

TRUE, ALL I DID WAS FOCUS MY *STAR-EYE* ON THE EARTH FROM AFAR AND CREATE *FICTIONAL NARRATIVES* REVOLVING AROUND THE *HULK* AND *RICK*--

--BUT I SPENT SO MUCH TIME OBSERVING THEM THAT I FEEL I HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY I "*KNEW*" THEM.

WHY DO YOU DENY ME THAT, BETTY ROSS? I'D LIKE TO BE YOUR FRIEND.

I'M *HELPING*, AREN'T I?

YES, BEREET... YOU ARE, AND I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN UNDER SUCH A STRAIN.

FIRST BRUCE TURNED INTO THE HULK AND VANISHED INTO SPACE, NEXT RICK IRRADIATED HIMSELF, THEN YOU SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE...

WELL, HYPERSPACE IS HARDLY "NOWHERE," BUT I SEE YOUR POINT.

STILL, I KNOW EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALL RIGHT IF ONLY BRUCE WOULD RETURN.

HE COULD CURE RICK-- I KNOW HE *COULD!*

KNOWING HE WAS NEAR WOULD DISPEL THIS SENSE OF *DREAD* I HAVE.

BETTY'S FEELINGS OF DREAD ARE WELL-FOUNDED...

...FOR ABOVE HER FLIES JACKDAW, AND LIKE HER NAMESAKE, SHE IS DRAWN TO RUINS, TO SCAVENGE WHAT SHE MAY.

7

MY *EMPLOYER* TOLD ME I WOULD FIND GAMMA BASE DESERTED. HE WAS WRONG.

BUT THE BIRD-WOMAN'S PET HAS MADE MY TASK IMMEASURABLY EASIER.

BY... *EATING* ...GAMMA BASE'S SECURITY SYSTEMS, THE CREATURE SAVED ME THE TROUBLE OF SHUTTING THEM DOWN.

NOW JACKDAW MAY ACCOMPLISH HER MISSION UNDETECTED.

HER MISSION?

WHEN GAMMA BASE WAS ABANDONED, IT WAS THE MAJOR AMERICAN CENTER OF GAMMA RAY RESEARCH.

MUCH OF THAT RESEARCH WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THE MENACE OF THE *HULK*.

MUCH... BUT NOT *ALL*.

SOME WAS PURELY *EXPERIMENTAL*.

GAMMA BASE SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED THINGS ABOUT GAMMA RADIATION WHICH EVEN *THEY* COULD NOT EXPLAIN.

THINGS MY EMPLOYER IMMEDIATELY GRASPED THE IMPORTANCE OF.

THINGS STORED... *THERE!*

JACKDAW MOVES UNERRINGLY THROUGH THE COMPLEX MAZE OF CORRIDORS. SHE HAS BEEN BRIEFED REGARDING EVERY TWIST AND TURN INSIDE GAMMA BASE...

GAMMA RAY RESEARCH LAB
ACCESS RESTRICTED

...BY ONE WHO KNEW IT WELL.

8

THIS CHAMBER'S SECURITY SYSTEMS WERE *NOT* SHUT DOWN BY THE BIRD-WOMAN'S PET--

--PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE, OR PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY OVERLOOKED IT.

BUT IT IS THIS LAB MY EMPLOYER BADE ME BREECH--

--AND HE GAVE ME *THIS CARD* TO GUARANTEE MY ENTRANCE.

GAMMA BASE
ULTRASECURITY AUTHORIZATION
GENERAL THADDEUS ROSS

THE CARD IS INSERTED, SCANNED, APPROVED...

...AND THE MASSIVE DOOR HISSES OPEN.

I AM A FREELANCE *SPY.* I WORK FOR THE HIGHEST BIDDER. THE ONE WHO HAS HIRED ME HAS PROMISED ME A SMALL FORTUNE...

...TO BRING HIM THOSE *SECRETS* WHICH HE DESIRES FROM *GAMMA BASE.*

THIS IS BUT THE ANTECHAMBER TO THE GAMMA RESEARCH LAB...

*...YET THE **WEAPONS** STORED HERE WOULD BRING IMMENSE WEALTH ON THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK MARKET.*

9

JACKDAW HAS NOT BEEN DISPATCHED TO SECURE ANY WEAPONS FOR HER MYSTERIOUS EMPLOYER.

INDEED, HER INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO IGNORE THOSE THAT SHE SEES...

BUT HOW DOES ONE IGNORE... MEGALITH?

MEAN-WHILE...

GAMMA BASE! RICK AND BETTY MUST BE THERE!

IT'S THE LOGICAL PLACE TO TAKE SOMEONE STRICKEN WITH GAMMA RAY POISONING--

--WHEN YOU'RE OUT IN THE DESERT AND MILES FROM THE NEAREST HOSPITAL!

I ONLY PRAY BETTY WAS LOGICAL -- THAT SHE BROUGHT RICK HERE AND SUMMONED HELP...

... FROM DR. LEONARD SAMSON, PERHAPS, OR EVEN FROM HER FATHER, GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS!

BUT... I JUST REALIZED THAT RICK'S CAR... THEIR ONLY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION -- WAS STILL BACK AT THE CAVE!

MAYBE THEY DIDN'T COME HERE! MAYBE THEY'RE STILL BACK OUT ON THE DESERT, WITH RICK DYING, AND BETTY DESPERATELY TRYING TO REACH HELP!

MAYBE BY COMING HERE MYSELF I'VE DOOMED RICK TO DIE!

STOP IT, BANNER! GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! SEARCH GAMMA BASE FIRST!

BUT WHERE TO START--?!

THERE! THE GAMMA RAY RESEARCH COMPLEX! "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS HAD IT CONSTRUCTED FOR ONE PURPOSE ONLY -- TO FIND A WAY TO CURE OR KILL... ME!

OBVIOUSLY HE NEVER SUCCEEDED -- AND A BUDGET-CONSCIOUS ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON CUT OFF HIS FUNDS AND SHUT DOWN GAMMA BASE FOR GOOD!

REACHING THE GAMMA RAY RESEARCH COMPLEX, THE HULK RACES THROUGH THE FAMILIAR CORRIDORS UNTIL HE AT LAST FINDS...

RICK! BETTY--QUICKLY, TELL ME HOW HE IS!

HUH--! UH--YES, YES--ALL RIGHT! RICK'S CONDITION IS... STABLE... FOR THE MOMENT--

--BUT HE'D DIE WITHIN MOMENTS IF TAKEN OFF THIS *LIFE-SUPPORT COUCH!*

BUT WAIT! YOU'RE THE *HULK!* YET, YOU TALK LIKE BRUCE BANNER?!

IT'S TOO LONG A STORY TO GO INTO RIGHT NOW, MY DARLING! I'VE GOT TO CURE *RICK!*

CAN YOU HEAR ME, SON? I'M HERE WITH YOU! I'M BACK!

AND I WON'T LET YOU DIE!

A... *HULK*... WITH... BRUCE BANNER'S... *BRAIN*... HUH? OUTTA... SIGHT! KNEW... YOU'D FIND... A WAY... TO LET ... *BOTH* OF YOU... *LIVE!*

YOU CRAZY KID! WHAT IN BLAZES DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING, EXPOSING YOURSELF TO GAMMA RAYS?!

YOU... NEVER UNDERSTOOD... DID YOU... DOC? YOU WANTED TO... GET *RID*... OF HULK... SO YOU COULD... LIVE.

BUT *HULK*... WAS MY *FRIEND!* I TEND TO... *LOSE* FRIENDS--LIKE *CAPTAIN MARVEL!**

COULDN'T LEAVE... WORLD WITHOUT... A *HULK*--

*SEE "THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL" GRAPHIC NOVEL--AL.

--SO I FIGURED... I'D MAKE... A *NEW ONE!*

JUST LIKE THAT, EH? IT NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT *GAMMA RAYS* AFFECT EACH INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENTLY? DON'T YOU RECALL THAT THEY MADE A MAD GENIUS OUT OF THE *LEADER*--

--A HORRIBLE *HARPY* OUT OF BETTY, AN ABOMINATION *CALLED* THE *ABOMINATION*, AND A *HULK* OUT OF... *ME?*

12

IN YOUR CASE, ALL THE INFERNAL RAYS HAVE DONE IS GIVEN YOU A MASSIVE CASE OF *RADIATION POISONING!*

LIKE A *CANCER*, IT'S DESTROYING YOUR CELLS!

IF YOU'RE TO BE *CURED*, THAT DESTRUCTIVE PROCESS HAS GOT TO BE *REVERSED*-- THE GAMMA RAYS SIPHONED OUT OF YOU-- YOUR CELLS AGAIN MADE WHOLE!

HAVE TO GET THIS PROJECTOR CLOSER TO YOU!

SUCH POWER! SUCH AWESOME *POWER!*

I *DESIGNED* MANY OF THESE MACHINES! I'D ALWAYS HOPED THEY COULD BE USED TO *CURE* ME!

BUT I'D BEEN THE HULK TOO *LONG* BY THE TIME I SOUGHT A CURE! THE GAMMA RAYS HAD ALREADY ALTERED MY GENETIC MAKEUP!

13

BUT YOU'VE ONLY BEEN IRRADIATED A MATTER OF *DAYS*--AND THAT *COUCH* YOU'RE LYING ON SEEMS TO HAVE HALTED THE GAMMA SPREAD!

SO THERE'S A CHANCE--A SLIM CHANCE--THAT I CAN PREVENT YOU FROM *DYING*, RICK!

Y-YOU'VE TRANSFORMED YOURSELF FROM THE HULK... TO *BRUCE BANNER!* IN HEAVEN'S NAME, *HOW?!*

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU, BETTY, I SWEAR-- AS SOON AS RICK IS OUT OF *DANGER!*

DANGER? DID SOMEBODY SAY... DANGER?!

WHOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?!

OH!

STURKLE!

IT CAME FROM OUTSIDE-- SOME FORCE CAPABLE OF JARRING THE ENTIRE BASE!

I KNEW IT! SOME NEW DANGER!

THERE'S ALWAYS DANGER WHENEVER THE HULK IS PRESENT!

THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO FIND A CURE, BRUCE--SO YOU'D BE OUT OF DANGER FOREVER!

THAT WAS MY DREAM AND MY MOST FERVENT DESIRE ALSO, BETTY!

BUT SOMETIMES OUR DREAMS DIFFER UPON WAKING!

THE POINT IS, I'M BOTH BRUCE BANNER AND THE HULK NOW!

AND IF DANGER PERSISTS IN SEEKING ME OUT--

--I THINK IT MAKES MUCH MORE SENSE TO FACE IT AS THE LATTER!

LOOK AFTER RICK! SEE THE INSTRUMENTS AREN'T DAMAGED!

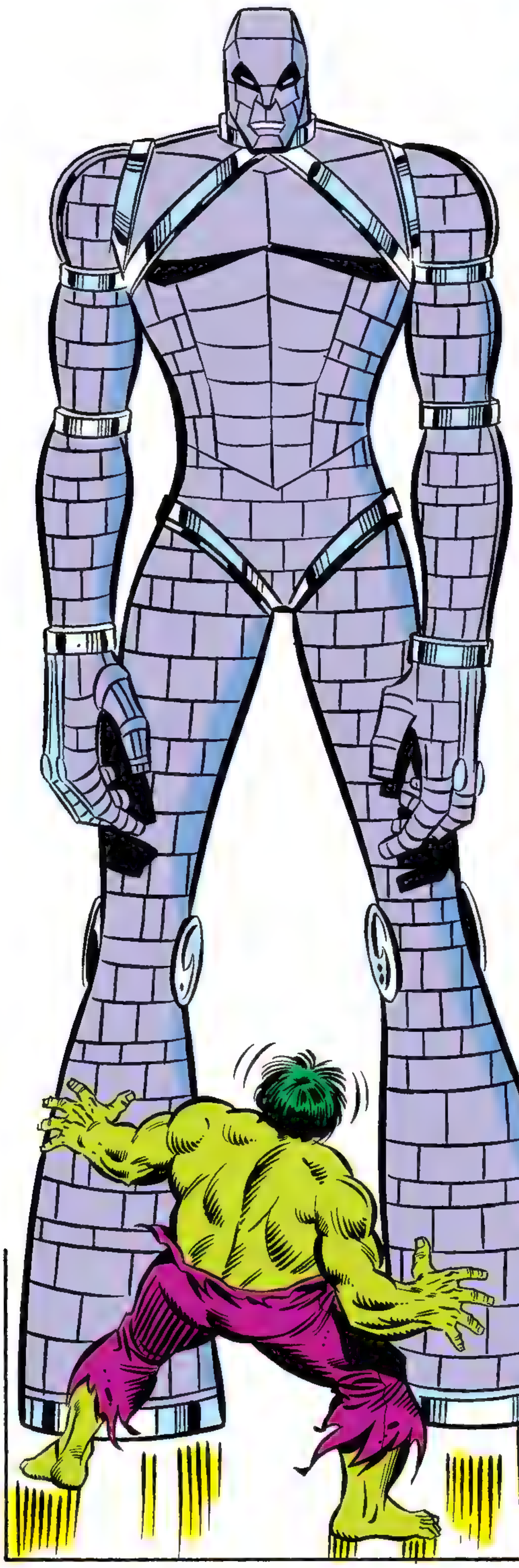
I'LL RETURN AS SOON AS I MAKE SHORT SHRIFT OF WHATEVER MENACE EXISTS TO GAMMA BASE!

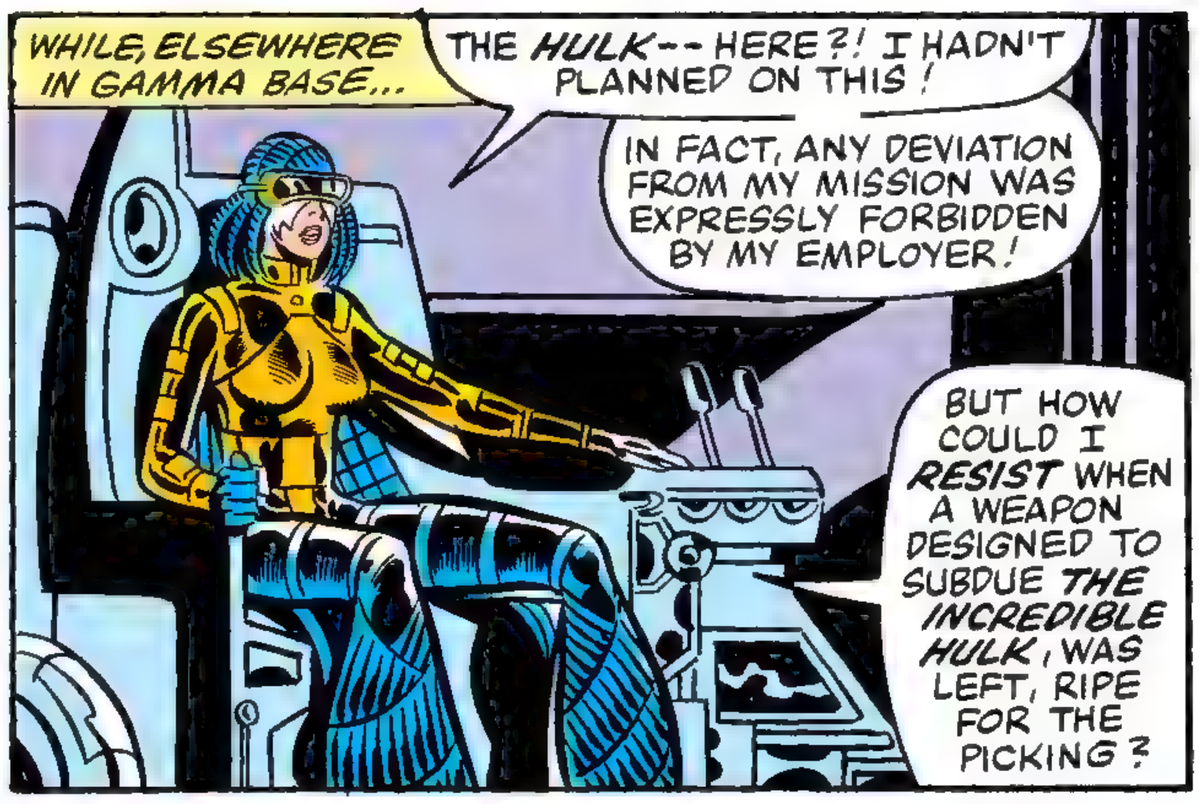
BRAVE WORDS UTTERED BY A BRAVE MAN POSSESSED OF THE POWER TO BACK THEM UP.

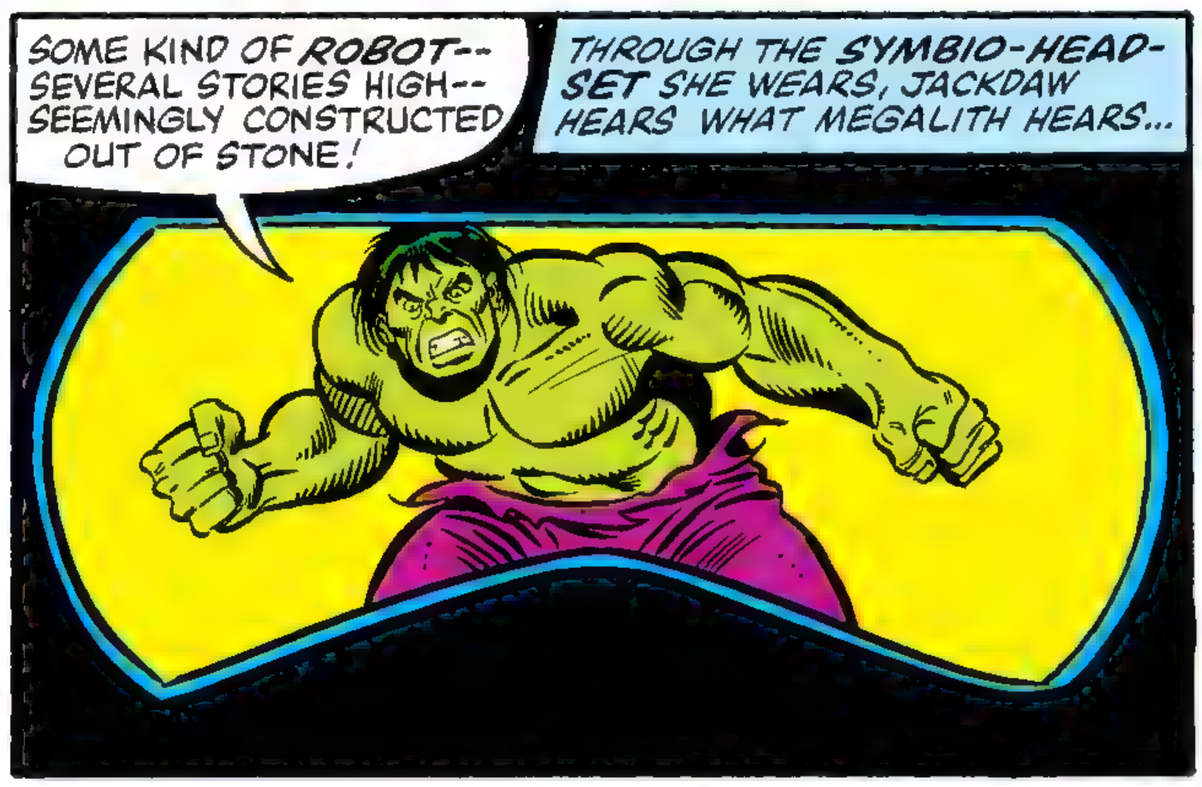
BUT BRUCE BANNER'S MIND HAS NOT BEEN IN CONTROL OF THE HULK SO LONG THAT HE KNOWS HOW TO REACT TO...

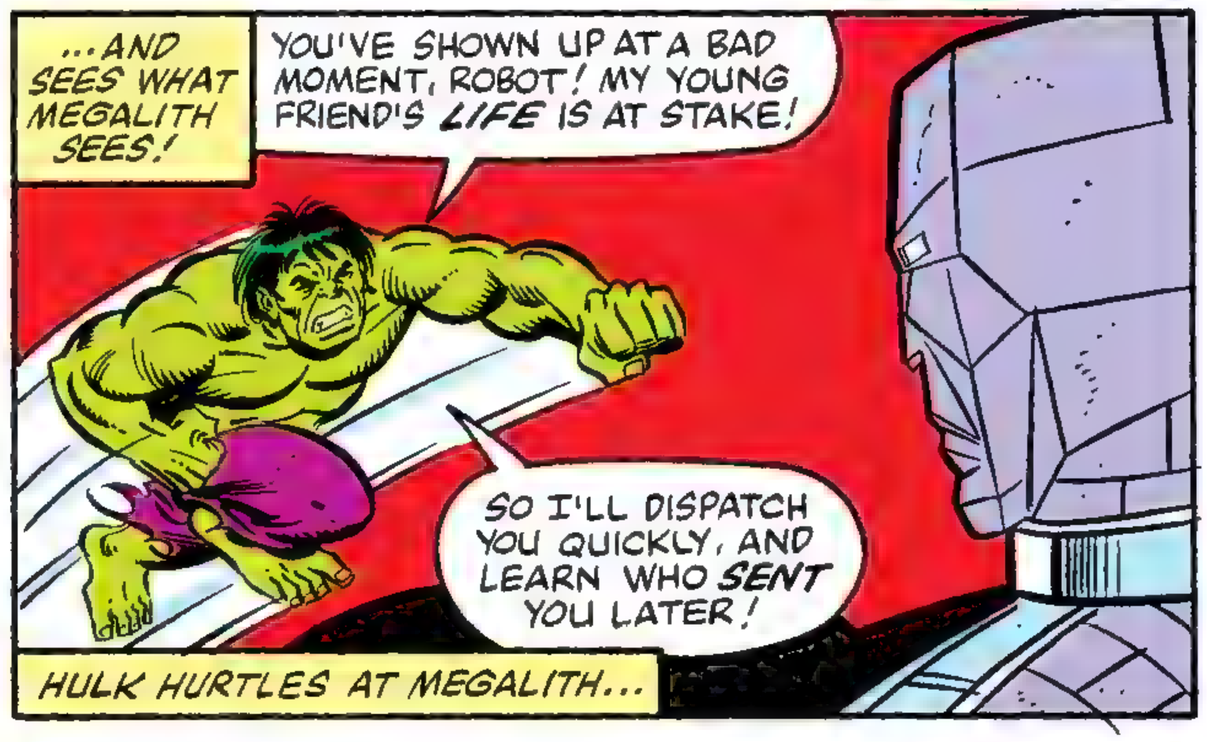
14

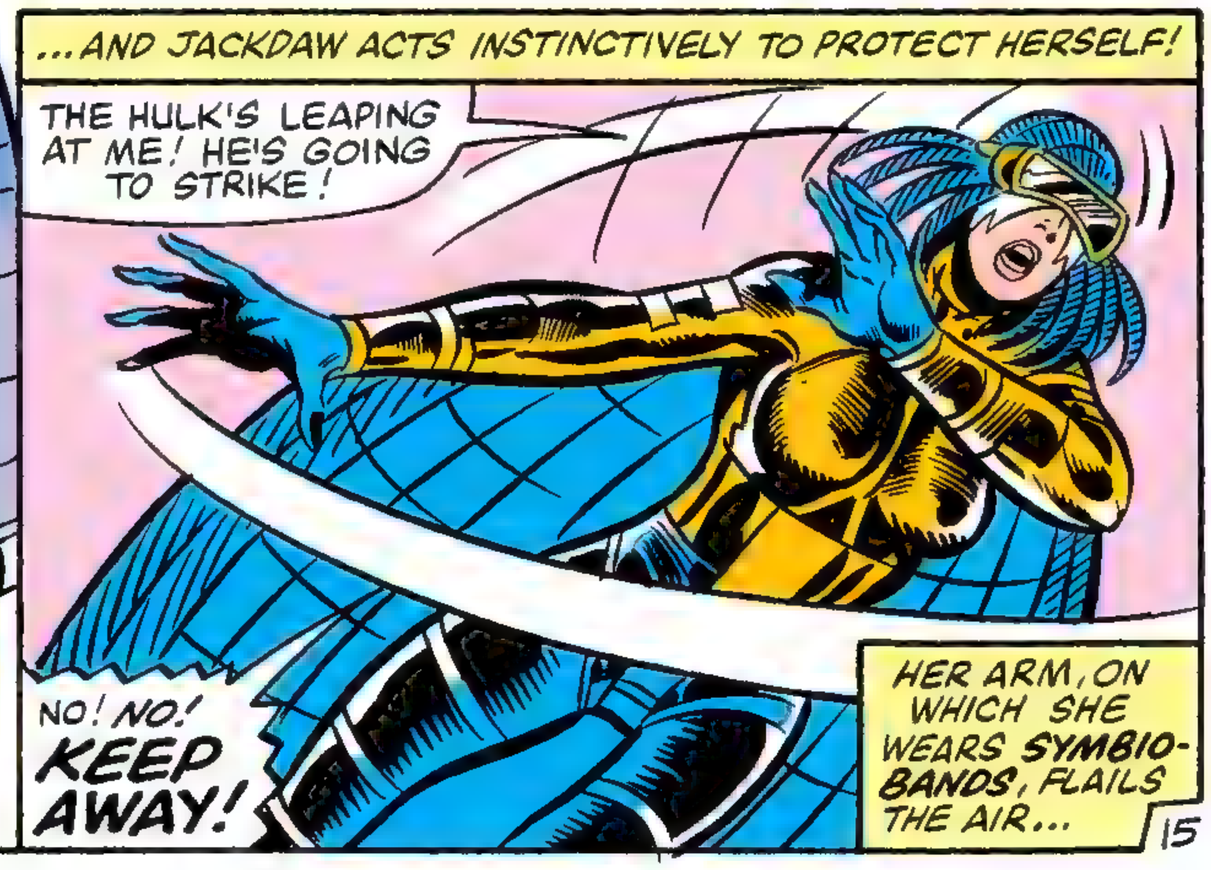
MEGALITH




WHILE, ELSEWHERE IN GAMMA BASE...
THE HULK-- HERE?! I HADN'T PLANNED ON THIS!
IN FACT, ANY DEVIATION FROM MY MISSION WAS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN BY MY EMPLOYER!
BUT HOW COULD I RESIST WHEN A WEAPON DESIGNED TO SUBDUE THE INCREDIBLE HULK, WAS LEFT, RIPE FOR THE PICKING?


SOME KIND OF ROBOT-- SEVERAL STORIES HIGH-- SEEMINGLY CONSTRUCTED OUT OF STONE!
THROUGH THE SYMBIO-HEAD-SET SHE WEARS, JACKDAW HEARS WHAT MEGALITH HEARS...


...AND SEES WHAT MEGALITH SEES!
YOU'VE SHOWN UP AT A BAD MOMENT, ROBOT! MY YOUNG FRIEND'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!
SO I'LL DISPATCH YOU QUICKLY, AND LEARN WHO SENT YOU LATER!
HULK HURTLES AT MEGALITH...


...AND JACKDAW ACTS INSTINCTIVELY TO PROTECT HERSELF!
THE HULK'S LEAPING AT ME! HE'S GOING TO STRIKE!
NO! NO! KEEP AWAY!
HER ARM, ON WHICH SHE WEARS SYMBIO-BANDS, FLAILS THE AIR...

FWAP!

GNNGG!

...AND MEGALITH FLAILS AT THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

SHTROOM!

I DID IT! WITH ONE BLOW, I'VE DROPPED THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

SURELY MY EMPLOYER WOULD PREFER THAT I DELIVER *MEGALITH* TO HIM--

--THEN THAT *LESSER SECRET* WHICH HE ORDERED ME TO STEAL?

AND IF NOT, WHY I'LL JUST SELL MEGALITH TO *OTHERS* WHO WILL APPRECIATE HIS WORTH! WAIT! THE *HULK*--HE'S *RISING* AGAIN!

BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER? I'VE NOTHING TO FEAR! THESE *SYMBIO-BANDS* I'M WEARING DIRECT MEGALITH'S EVERY MOVEMENT!

IF THE HULK GETS UP--

--I'LL JUST ORDER *MEGALITH* TO SLAP HIM DOWN AGAIN!!

LIKE SO!!

16

BARAKK

UNGHH!

NOW, MEGALITH-- LET'S REDUCE THE *HULK* TO A GREAT *GREEN STAIN!*

STOMP

WE DID IT-- EVEN EASIER THAN I'D DARED DREAM! WHY, WITH MEGALITH MINE TO COMMAND, I FEAR NO ONE, NEED WORK FOR NO ONE-- NOT EVEN...

OHHHH--!!

I'VE HAD ABOUT ALL THE *POUNDING* I'M GOING TO TAKE, ROBOT! I SEE NOW YOUR BRICK-LIKE EXTERIOR ISN'T *STONE*--BUT SOME SORT OF *SUPER-ARMOR!*

BUT, EVEN SO, I THINK YOU MANAGED TO *HURT* ME BECAUSE I *LET* YOU HURT ME!

THOUGH I HAVE THE *POWER* OF THE HULK, I'M NOT *THINKING* LIKE HIM ... NOT YET!

17

HIS *SAVAGERY* WOULD HAVE GRANTED HIM *VICTORY* BY NOW!

MY *RATIONALITY* IS JUST SLOWING ME DOWN!

IN THE GAMMA RAY RESEARCH LAB, JACKDAW TRIES TO RISE...

NEVER... FELT... SUCH... PAIN!

SYMBIO-BANDS... TRANSMIT EVERYTHING ... MEGALITH EXPERIENCES... BACK TO *ME!*

A-AND NOW THE HULK IS *LEAPING* AT US WHILE WE'RE *DOWN!*

NO! *NO!*

NO!!!

KRUSHTROOM!

MEANWHILE, OBSERVING THE CONFLICT ARE BEREET AND BETTY...

THIS IS *MARVELOUS!* NOT EVEN MY FICTIONALIZED NARRATIVES COULD CONVEY SUCH *RAW POWER*-- SUCH *EXCITEMENT!*

YOUR *STAR-EYE* IS *FILMING* ALL THIS? DON'T YOU REALIZE THE HORROR OF WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

THE *MAN* I LOVE IS THE *HULK*--AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HE'S *REVELING* IN THAT FACT!

18

BETTY ROSS IS RIGHT. THE MIND MOTIVATING THE JADE GIANT IS BRUCE BANNER'S... AND HE IS ENJOYING THE SHEER SAVAGERY OF CONFRONTING AN ATTACKER MANY TIMES LARGER THAN HIMSELF--

--AND **WINNING!**

I-I FEEL AS IF I'M BEING *LIFTED UP*--JUST AS *MEGALITH* IS!

SKRASH!

...AND, FOR JACKDAW, THE SENSATION IS AKIN TO EXPERIENCING EVERY BONE IN HER BODY BROKEN BY A SAVAGE SLEDGEHAMMER.

MEGALITH GOES DOWN HARD...

19

THOUGH HER EYES ARE CLENCHED NEARLY IN AGONY, THE **SYMBIO-GOGGLES** REVEAL TO JACKDAW THAT THE HULK IS COMING AT HER--AT MEGALITH--AGAIN!

C-CAN'T LET HIM... *HIT* ME! CAN'T SUFFER... *PAIN*... LIKE THAT... AGAIN!

CAN'T!!

FHOM!

RRIPPP

SORRY I CAN'T BE THE ONE TO GIVE YOU A *HAND!*

STILL GOT A LITTLE *FIGHT* LEFT IN YOU, ROBOT?

YEEARRGHHHH!

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT WHOEVER IT WAS THAT SENT YOU AFTER ME, ROBOT--

--IS THAT... LIKE *YOU*... HE MUST HAVE *LOST HIS HEAD!*

SKRAKK

GGGGLLKKKK!

LUCKILY FOR JACKDAW, MEGALITH'S DESTRUCTION SEVERS THE LINK BETWEEN THE ROBOT AND HER SYMBIO-BANDS.

N-NO WONDER THE *ARMY* NEVER USED THE *ROBOT* AGAINST THE *HULK!*

I'M *LUCKY* TO BE *ALIVE!*

THOUGH EVEN *THAT* MAY CHANGE ONCE MY *EMPLOYER* LEARNS WHAT IT IS I'VE DONE.

AND HE *WILL* LEARN--IF HE DOESN'T *KNOW* ALREADY.

THERE'S NOT EVEN ANY POINT IN *FLYING* FROM HIM--HE'D FIND ME WHEREVER I CHOSE TO MAKE MY NEST.

ALL I CAN DO IS SLINK BACK TO HIM AND BEG HIS FORGIVENESS...

...AND PRAY THAT THE MOST *MERCILESS* MAN ALIVE IS CAPABLE OF GRANTING-- *MERCY!*

JACKDAW DEPARTS INTO THE NIGHT WHENCE SHE CAME, LEAVING NONE THE WISER ABOUT HER VISIT TO GAMMA BASE.

21

IT'S OVER.

THE ROBOT'S DESTROYED, WITHOUT ANY INDICATION AS TO WHOM IT SERVED OR FOR WHAT PURPOSE.

PERHAPS IT WAS BUILT HERE--AT GAMMA BASE --AS A ***SECURITY GUARD*** SET TO REPEL INTRUDERS.

I'LL EXAMINE THAT THEORY LATER.

RIGHT NOW CURING ***RICK*** IS OF PARAMOUNT CONCERN.

BETTY, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP IN THE LAB.

IN HIS CONCERN FOR RICK JONES, BRUCE BANNER DOESN'T EVEN ASK ABOUT BEREET. SHE FINDS THAT... ODDLY APPEALING.

MY, HE IS ***MARVELOUS!***

YOU ***SAID*** THAT ALREADY. COME ON!

ELSEWHERE IN THIS VAST AMERICAN DESERT...

UTRECHT INDUST

...A ONCE-THRIVING INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX STANDS DESERTED.

*WELL, NO... NOT **QUITE** DESERTED!*

THE ***OTHERS*** SHOULD BE HERE BY NOW, UNLESS I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE OUR BATTLE WITH THE ***HULK!***

NO, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT! I WON'T!

THEY WERE MY ***FRIENDS*** --MY ***TEAMMATES!*** THEY'VE GOTTA BE ALIVE!

WE ***ARE***, YOU BIG GALOOT!

THAT VOICE--! IT'S THE ***KID!***

JIMMY-- TOGETHER WITH ***SIMON*** AN' ***ANN!***

THOSE WERE OUR ***OLD*** NAMES! ***JIMMY DARNELL*** IS NOW ***X-RAY!***

WHILE YOU, ***MIKE STEEL***, ARE ***IRON-CLAD***--AND I, ***SIMON UTRECHT***, AM ***VECTOR!***

AND ***ANN DARNELL*** IS THE WOMAN CALLED ***VAPOR!***

TOGETHER, WE ARE THE **U-FOES** *--AND WE'RE GOING TO KILL THE* **HULK!**

60¢ | 276 OCT 02456

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TM

MILGROM

RETURN OF THE U-FOES!

Stan Lee presents: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BILL MANTLO / SCRIPTER | SAL BUSCEMA & JOE SINNOTT / PENCILER / INKER | JIM NOVAK, LETTERS / BOB SHAREN, COLORS | AL MILGROM / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / LEADER

THE RETURN OF THE U-FOES!

GAMMA BASE: BENEATH THE HUGE MASS OF A GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR **RICK JONES** LIES, GLOWING GREEN AND CLOSE TO DEATH. THE ONLY THING THAT HAS SUSTAINED HIM THUS FAR IS THE SEMI-ORGANIC **LIFE-SUPPORT SPIDER** CREATED BY **BEREET**, THE KRYLORIAN TECHNO-ARTIST.

IT HAS **STABILIZED** THE GAMMA POISONING THAT IS KILLING RICK. IT CANNOT CURE HIM. THAT TASK FALLS TO THE MAN WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT GAMMA RAYS THAN ANYONE ELSE ON EARTH...

DR. BRUCE BANNER-- THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

BANNER KNOWS HE CANNOT FAIL, HE MUST NOT FAIL.

GET READY, BEREET.

RICK JONES IS HIS FRIEND.

PRIOR TO HER COMING TO EARTH, BEREET REGARDED THESE PEOPLE AS MERE ACTORS IN HER TECHNO-ART CREATIONS.

GIVE THE WORD DR. BANNER.

HER REGARD FOR THEM HAS GROWN.

AND BETTY ROSS? SHE IS HERE BECAUSE HER FATE HAS BEEN INTERTWINED WITH BANNER'S AND RICK'S SINCE THE BEGINNING...

...LO, THOSE MANY YEARS AGO.

AS FOR RICK JONES, HE PLACED HIMSELF IN THIS POSITION...

...BY TRYING TO BECOME A SECOND INCREDIBLE HULK!

BEREET, WITHDRAW YOUR LIFE-SUPPORT SPIDER--

--NOW!

THOUGH SHE'S FILMED BANNER FROM AFAR FOR YEARS, BEREET HAS ONLY TRULY KNOWN HIM FOR A FEW SHORT HOURS. IT HAS BEEN ENOUGH FOR HER TO LEARN THAT WHEN HE ISSUES A COMMAND...

...IT IS TO BE OBEYED!

BUT, WITHOUT THE SPIDER, THE GAMMA RAYS WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON RICK'S CELLS--

--CAUSING HIM INCREDIBLE PAIN!

EEYARRGH!

HELP HIM, BRUCE! HE'S DYING! IN HEAVEN'S NAME, DO SOMETHING!

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL BEREET'S LIFE-SUPPORT SPIDER WAS OUT OF THE WAY, BETTY--

--BUT, NOW THAT IT IS, I CAN TURN THE GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR ON FULL REVERSE!

2

MANY'S THE TIME THAT I EXPOSED MYSELF TO THE PROJECTOR--

--IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD SIPHON OFF THE GAMMA RADIATION THAT CHANGED ME INTO THE HULK.

IT WAS A FORLORN HOPE. I'D ABSORBED TOO MUCH GAMMA RADIATION TOO MANY TIMES TO BE CURED SO EASILY.

BUT RICK ONLY EXPOSED HIMSELF TO ONE MASSIVE DOSE. YOU THINK ITS EFFECTS CAN BE NEUTRALIZED?

LOOK! THE *GLOW* AROUND RICK--

GLEEP!

--IT'S *FADING!*

INDEED IT IS.

THEN THE PROCESS HAS WORKED. RICK JONES IS *CURED.*

IF THAT'S SO, WHY ISN'T THE GAMMA RAY PROJECTOR SHUTTING ITSELF *OFF?!*

BLAST! IT'S CONTINUING TO POWER ITSELF ON THE ENORMOUS ENERGIES IT'S SIPHONING AWAY FROM RICK!

IF IT'S NOT SHUT DOWN--

--IT WILL DRAIN OFF NOT ONLY THE *GAMMA RAYS*--

--BUT HIS *LIFE-ENERGIES* AS WELL!

IF THAT HAPPENS, *RICK JONES WILL DIE!*

3

JUST BY WILLING IT, BRUCE BANNER TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO HIS EMERALD ALTER-EGO--THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

A CHANGE OVER WHICH HE FORMERLY HAD NO CONTROL, HE NOW CONTROLS COMPLETELY!

AND THE HULK THAT LEAPS TO RICK JONES'S RESCUE IS AN INTELLIGENT HULK--

BRAKRRASH!

--POSSESSED OF THE BRILLIANT BRAIN OF DR. BRUCE BANNER!

IT IS WITH MIXED EMOTIONS THAT THE HULK'S AUDIENCE REGARDS HIS FEAT.

MARVELOUS! FANTASTIC!

STREEKLE!

OH, BRUCE--BRUCE!

BUT THE GREEN GOLIATH'S SOLE CONCERN IS NOW FOR HIS FRIEND.

HOW DO YOU FEEL, SON?

TIRED, DOC... AND STUPID! AM I GONNA LIVE?

I THINK SO. REST NOW, WHILE I RUN SOME TESTS.

WHAT AN IMAGE! AND TO THINK THAT I WAS HERE--WATCHING IT--EXPERIENCING IT--

--NOT MERELY MONITORING IT ON MY STAR-EYE FROM A MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY!

ALL RIGHT! RICK'S ALIVE! RICK'S CURED! NOW BRUCE, IF YOU DON'T MIND--

--WILL YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE MAN I LOVE?

4

WHY CERTAINLY, BETTY. NO NEED TO GET DISTRAUGHT.

HERE, LET ME JUST SET RICK DOWN WHERE HE'LL BE COMFORTABLE--

--AND THEN I'LL WILL THE *CHANGE* BACK AGAIN--

--SO THAT YOU AND I CAN TALK.

THERE, IS THAT BETTER?

J-JUST LIKE THAT--?!?!

YES--AS EASILY AS WISHING IT. I SUPPOSE THE THOUGHT TRIGGERS SOME HORMONAL SIGNAL, TO BE SENT FROM MY BRAIN TO MY GAMMA-MUTATED CELLS, CAUSING THE TRANSFORMATION.

H-HOW?

THAT'S LESS EASY TO EXPLAIN--

"--BUT MY THEORY IS THAT MY ATTEMPTS TO *CURE* MYSELF OF EVER BECOMING THE HULK--

"--INCREASED THE GAMMA CONCENTRATIONS ALREADY IMPRINTED ONTO MY GENETIC STRUCTURE.

"AN ADDITIONAL, AND MASSIVE, DOSAGE OF GAMMA RAYS--ACCUMULATED DURING THE HULK'S DESTRUCTION OF THE DREAD GALAXY MASTER*--*FURTHER* HEIGHTENED MY GAMMA LEVELS.

*SEE *HULK* #270--AL.

"BUT I SUSPECT THAT IT WAS THE GAMMA-TRANSPORT BEAM OF THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT'S UNCLE PYKO* THAT HAD THE GREATEST EFFECT.

"NOT ONLY DID IT BEAM ME BACK HOME--TO EARTH--BUT IT ALSO SOMEHOW *FOCUSED* ALL THE GAMMA RAYS IN MY SYSTEM..."

*AND #271--AL AGAIN.

5

...SO THAT THE *CHANGE*...THE *TRANSFORMATION* FROM *MAN* TO *MONSTER*--IS NOW AND FOREVERMORE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE *MAN'S MIND*--THE MIND OF *BRUCE BANNER!*

SO THE DOC'S GOT WHAT HE WANTED, AND THE WORLD STILL HAS A *HULK!*

BEEEEP!

YES, STURKY --IT IS TRULY WONDER-FUL!

WELL, I DON'T THINK IT'S SO WONDERFUL--AND I *DON'T* HAVE WHAT *I* WANTED!

OR WHAT I THOUGHT IT WAS *YOU* WANTED, BRUCE!

I CAME TO THE DESERT WITH YOU TO HELP YOU FIND A *CURE*--A WAY TO RID YOURSELF OF THE *HULK* FOREVER!

INSTEAD, YOU *ARE* THE HULK--AND WORSE, YOU *LIKE* IT!

BETTY WAIT! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT EVERYTHING'S CHANGED?

I HAVE SEEN, DR. BANNER--AND MY HEART REJOICES FOR YOU.

I CANNOT EXPRESS HOW GRATIFIED I AM THAT YOUR HAPPINESS COINCIDES WITH THE MAKING OF MY NEW MOVIE.

MOVIE? WHAT MOVIE?! SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE I RETURNED TO GAMMA BASE THAT I BARELY TOOK IN YOUR PRESENCE HERE!

BUT YOUR TRILLING VOICE--YOUR THREE-FINGERED HANDS--SO LIKE A BIRD'S! *YOU'RE NOT FROM EARTH!*

6

OF COURSE NOT. I AM *BEREET*--A TECHNO-ARTIST FROM THE PLANET KRYLOR. LONG HAVE I OBSERVED AND RECORDED YOUR ADVENTURES AND YOUR SUFFERING FROM AFAR!

BUT NOW I FIND THAT YOU ARE SO MUCH MORE *THRILLING* IN PERSON!

LOOK, I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST NOTION OF WHAT IT IS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT--AND I'D RATHER TRY TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO THE WOMAN I LOVE. EXCUSE ME.

OHHH!

GLEEP!!

NO, STURKY--DON'T *DEMATERIALIZE* HIM... YET!

HERE, LET ME HELP YOU UP. SORRY ABOUT THE DOC, BUT I GUESS YOU CAN SEE HE'S GOT A LOT ON HIS MIND.

NOW WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT A MOVIE?

AS BEREET EXPLAINS...

...TWO LOVERS FIND EACH OTHER IN THE MOONLIGHT BATHING GAMMA BASE.

BETTY, YOU--OF ALL PEOPLE--MUST UNDERSTAND...

I *DO* UNDERSTAND, BRUCE. I UNDERSTAND THAT FOR YEARS YOU'VE HAD TO LIVE HALF A LIFE--SHARING YOUR EXISTENCE WITH THE HORROR THAT MEN CALL THE HULK.

BUT YOU STOOD BESIDE ME THROUGH ALL THOSE YEARS WHEN I COULDN'T *HELP* BECOMING THE HULK, BETTY--WHEN THE HULK WAS A SAVAGE, UNCONTROLLABLE MONSTER. SO WHY ARE YOU GIVING UP ON ME NOW?!

I STOOD BY YOU BECAUSE I BELIEVED YOU WANTED TO FIND A *CURE*, BRUCE--TO BE FREE OF THE HULK FOREVER. YOUR NEW CONDITION IS A *COMPROMISE*--ONE I CAN'T ACCEPT.

WHY NOT, BETTY? I'M BRUCE BANNER--THE *MAN* YOU SAID YOU LOVED--THE MAN YOU SAID YOU WANTED!

7

WANT? WHAT *DO* I WANT? THE SIMPLE THINGS, I SUPPOSE...

"AN ORDINARY, EVERYDAY HUSBAND WHO COMES HOME AFTER WORK TO HIS ORDINARY, EVERYDAY FAMILY--

"--NOT A SUPER-BEING WHOSE LIFE IS CONSTANTLY MENACED, WHOSE FAMILY IS CONSTANTLY ENDANGERED."

BETTY, IT WOULDN'T BE LIKE THAT! I'D ONLY USE THE HULK'S POWERS WHEN NECESSARY...

"... LIKE TO HELP AVERT THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS!"

BRUCE, THE MAN I LOVED DIDN'T *EVER* WANT TO USE THE POWER OF THE HULK--HE WANTED TO BE *RID* OF IT!

THEN I PROMISE YOU, BETTY, I'LL NEVER USE THEM--NEVER BECOME THE HULK AGAIN, IF YOU DON'T *WANT* ME TO!

CORRECTION, DR. BANNER: YOU'LL NEVER BECOME THE HULK AGAIN--BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE *ABLE* TO!

YOU'LL BE DEAD... A VICTIM OF THE UNCANNY U-FOES!

NOW, DR. BANNER, HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO DEAL WITH *THIS* NATURAL DISASTER?

9

IT'S STARTING ALREADY! WHO ARE THEY, BRUCE? WHAT DO THEY WANT?

THEY *WERE* FOUR ORDINARY PEOPLE, BETTY, WHOSE QUEST TO EMULATE THE POWERS OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* BACKFIRED.*

CORRECTION, DR. BANNER--WE SOUGHT, THROUGH PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO *COSMIC RAYS*, TO BE *GREATER* THAN THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

YOUR UNTIMELY INTERFERENCE DESTROYED OUR DREAM--AND THE *HULK* NEARLY ENDED OUR LIVES!

*AS RECOUNTED IN HULK #254--AL.

THEN AS NOW, DR. BANNER, WHAT WE WISH FOR ABOVE ALL ELSE...

...IS *REVENGE!*

GREAT POWER COULD HAVE REAPED FOR US GREAT REWARDS, DR. BANNER --*WEALTH, ADULATION!*

THE WHOLE WORLD WOULDA BEEN *AFRAID* OF US!

BY CUTTING SHORT OUR FLIGHT, YOU *LIMITED* OUR POWERS! NOW, TO GAIN THE WORLD'S RESPECT, WE WILL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING *DARING!*

WE WILL HAVE TO RID THE WORLD OF *THE INCREDIBLE HULK!*

VECTOR'S ABILITY TO REPEL MATTER HURLS BRUCE BANNER BACKWARDS...

...INTO THE ETHEREAL EMBRACE OF *VAPOR*, WHOSE POWER TO TRANSFORM HERSELF INTO ANY GASEOUS STATE...

...SUBJECTS THE STUNNED DR. BANNER TO HER CAUSTIC CARESSES!

CAN'T SEE! CAN'T BREATHE! THE VERY AIR ENTERING MY LUNGS *BURNS!*

MY SISTER HAS SET MANY A MAN'S HEART AFIRE, DOC--

--BUT YOU'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN ROASTED 'TIL YOU'VE BEEN *RADIATION-BURNED* BY THE BOY CALLED *X-RAY!*

10

THE **MASTER OF RADIATION** DIRECTS A KILLING COMBINATION OF RADIOACTIVE RAYS DOWN AT BRUCE BANNER.

IT IS ONLY HIS OWN PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO GAMMA RAYS THAT ENABLES HIM TO SUFFER X-RAY'S ASSAULT...AND LIVE!

BUT, WEAKENED AND IN PAIN, HE STILL HAS TO FACE ...**IRONCLAD!**

THIS IS TOO EASY! IT AIN'T THIS SCRAWNY SCIENTIST I WANT REVENGE ON--

--IT'S THE HULK!

ALERTED BY THE CLAMOR OF BATTLE, THE OTHER OCCUPANTS OF THE OTHERWISE ABANDONED GAMMA BASE NOW PUT IN AN APPEARANCE...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, DOC? WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT BACK?

FIGHT BACK--AGAINST THE U-FOES? HOW?! BRUCE BANNER'S ONLY A MAN!

WHAT?! HAVE YOU BOTH FORGOTTEN?! BRUCE BANNER MAY BE A **MAN**--

--BUT NOW HE KNOWS HOW TO CONTROL THE **CHANGE!**

THE **CHANGE?**

Y-YES! THE U-FOES' ATTACK WAS SO UNEXPECTED, SO SUDDEN, THAT I **DID** FORGET!

I NEVER HAD TO **THINK** ABOUT DEALING WITH **FEAR**--WITH **DANGER** BEFORE!

THE **HULK** ALWAYS APPEARED AND DEALT WITH IT **FOR** ME!

BUT **I** AM THE HULK NOW!

I...

...CONTROL...

...THE...

...CHANGE!!

NOW, MY FINE FEARSOME FOURSOME, YOU **WANTED** THE HULK--YOU'VE GOT HIM!

THE *BRAIN* OF *BRUCE BANNER* CONTROLLING THE *BODY* OF THE INCREDIBLE *HULK*?! WE DIDN'T COUNT ON THAT-- BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

I'M STILL *IRONCLAD*! I STILL ABSORBED EVEN MORE *COSMIC RAYS* THAN THOSE THAT TURNED BEN GRIMM INTO THE *THING*!

IF I COULDA CONTROLLED MY OWN POWER THE LAST TIME WE MET, GREENSKIN--

--I COULDA SMASHED YOU LIKE I'M GONNA SMASH YOU NOW!

FORGIVE ME FOR HAVING THE EFFRONTERY TO CONTRADICT YOU, IRONCLAD--

--BUT IF THERE'S GOING TO BE ANY *SMASHING* DONE TODAY--

12

--THE HULK'S GOING TO BE THE ONE TO DO IT!

SPREEAKKKK!

THE HULK HURLED IRONCLAD MILES FROM GAMMA BASE, VECTOR! HE'S AS STRONG AS EVER--BUT THERE'S A *MIND* GUIDING THE MONSTER!

I SEE, VAPOR! THIS *NEW* HULK IS AS *RATIONAL* AS YOU OR I!

YOU FLATTER YOURSELF, VECTOR! WHAT WERE YOU BEFORE YOUR TRANSFORMATION? A MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST NAMED *SIMON UTRECHT* WHO PAID OTHERS TO DO YOUR THINKING FOR YOU!

BUT I WAS--I *AM*--*BRUCE BANNER*, ONE OF THIS NATION'S FOREMOST PHYSICISTS...AND A MORE *RATIONAL* MAN NEVER LIVED!

ESTIMATING JUST HOW MUCH FORCE TO APPLY TO MOVE THE AIR MASSED BEFORE HIM, THE HULK BRINGS HIS EMERALD PALMS TOGETHER...

...AND DRIVES THE GASEOUS VAPOR AWAY ON THE WINDS OF A MAN-MADE HURRICANE!

13

TWO DOWN IN AS MANY MINUTES, VECTOR.

TELL ME, SINCE I POSSESSED THE BRAIN OF THE HULK WHEN LAST WE FOUGHT AND MEMORIES OF THE HULK'S BATTLES WERE ALWAYS A LITTLE FOGGY...

DID HE BEAT YOU THEN, AS EASILY AS I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU NOW ?!

IT WAS OUR OWN POWERS THAT BEAT US, BANNER!

BUT WE'VE BROUGHT OUR POWERS UNDER CONTROL! THIS TIME MY U-FOES SHALL NOT SUFFER DEFEAT!

VECTOR'S IS THE POWER TO REPEL MATTER.

AND A FORMIDABLE POWER IT IS. BUT HE AT WHOM IT IS DIRECTED IS PRACTICALLY IMPERVIOUS TO PAIN...

...AND POSSESSES LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES THAT ENABLE HIM TO CATCH THE OBJECTS HURTLING AT HIM IN MID-FLIGHT...

...AND HURL THEM BACK WHENCE THEY CAME!

HERE, VECTOR-- I BELIEVE THIS BELONGS TO YOU!

VECTOR IS NEW TO THIS SORT OF ACTION. THIS IS, AFTER ALL, ONLY HIS SECOND FORAY INTO BATTLE SINCE HE **GAINED** HIS INCREDIBLE POWERS.

THUS, WHEN AN ENORMOUS MASS OF STONE IS THROWN STRAIGHT AT HIS HEAD, HE REACTS INSTINCTIVELY...

...AND DEFLECTS THE MASS AWAY.

14

BUT THE FIRST MASS IS FOLLOWED BY A SECOND, AND A THIRD, AND A FOURTH...

...AND VECTOR, WHO ENTERED THIS BATTLE ON THE OFFENSIVE, NOW FINDS IT IS TAKING ALL HIS POWER MERELY TO DEFEND HIMSELF!

THE VILLAIN CALLED VECTOR IS DEFLECTING THE OBJECTS AWAY FROM HIMSELF..

...AND TOWARDS US!

WE'VE GOTTA FIND SHELTER!

SHELTER? OF COURSE! HOW SILLY OF ME NOT TO HAVE THOUGHT OF IT!

JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT...

THE BAG AT BEREET'S HIP IS, IN REALITY, A SPATIAL DISTORTER.

THAT MEANS THAT THERE IS MORE ROOM INSIDE IT THAN IS EVIDENT FROM WITHOUT. AND, THOUGH THE OBJECT SHE EXTRACTS LOOKS SMALL...

...IT SOON GROWS TO ENVELOP HERSELF, RICK AND BETTY.

I'VE SEEN YOUR BAG PRODUCE A SPACESHIP, A LIFE-SUPPORT SPIDER, A LIVING MOVIE CAMERA... AND NOW THIS!

THE INSULA-SPHERE IS DESIGNED TO INSULATE THOSE IT ENCLOSES FROM ADVERSITY!

BUT YOUR PET AND YOUR CAMERA ARE STILL OUTSIDE!

STURKY CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF, AND I WISH MY STAR-EYE TO RECORD THE HULK'S TRIUMPH! 15

ALTHOUGH AT THE MOMENT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE BATTLE IS GOING HIS WAY, TALK OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK'S TRIUMPH IS DECIDEDLY PREMATURE.

THE HULK HAS TAKEN EVERYTHING I'VE HURLED AT HIM--AND THROWN IT RIGHT BACK! THIS ENCOUNTER ISN'T GOING AS I'D PLANNED!

PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER BRUSH UP ON YOUR VON CLAUSWITZ, VECTOR. YOU NEED SOME LESSONS IN TACTICS.

THE HULK'S *RIGHT*, VECTOR! WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING WITHOUT A STRATEGY--AND HE'S KILLING US!

WE'VE GOTTA PULL TOGETHER--TAKE HIM ON AS A TEAM!

YES! EVEN NOW A BATTLE PLAN COMES TO ME!

FLY AT THE HULK, X-RAY! BOMBARD HIM WITH A DEADLY DOSE OF *GAMMA NEGATIVE RAYS!*

CONSIDER IT DONE, VECTOR!

GAMMA NEGATIVE RAYS! I'D ONCE STUDIED THEM--BUT MY RESEARCH WAS INTERRUPTED BY MY CONSTANT TRANSFORMATIONS INTO THE HULK!

AS MASTER OF *ALL* FORMS OF RADIATION --X-RAY COMMANDS *THEM* AS WELL!

I'D ONCE HOPED THAT GAMMA NEGATIVE RAYS WOULD HOLD THE KEY TO A *CURE* FOR MY TRANSFORMATIONS TO THE HULK!

WHAT WILL THEY DO TO ME NOW THAT I NO LONGER *DESIRE* A CURE?!

16

WHAT?!

THE ANSWER COMES ALMOST INSTANTLY AS AGAINST HIS WILL, THE HULK'S HAMMERING HEARTBEAT SLOWS, HIS PULSE-RATE RETURNS TO NORMAL, AND HIS FLESH GOES FROM BRIGHT GREEN TO PALE PINK!

I-I'VE BEEN TRANSFORMED BACK TO *BRUCE BANNER* AGAIN -- AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO PREVENT IT!

NOW AIN'T THAT A SHAME, DOC?

AIN'T THAT A CRYIN' SHAME?!

IRON-CLAD IS BACK.

KWOM!

FWOM!

IT IS THE KIND OF BLOW THE INCREDIBLE HULK WOULD HAVE SHRUGGED OFF AS AN ELEPHANT SHRUGS OFF A BEE-STING!

BUT THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS NO LONGER PRESENT, AND NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIES, BRUCE BANNER CANNOT SUMMON HIM BACK!

UNFORTUNATE. BECAUSE, AS HE LIES ON THE COLD CONCRETE OF GAMMA BASE HURTING AND HELPLESS...

...TENDRILS OF GAS CURL ABOUT HIM, FILLING HIS SCREAMING LUNGS.

V-VAPOR!!

YES, HANDSOME! AND I'LL BET YOU'VE NEVER BEEN *KISSED* LIKE THAT BEFORE!

UNGHHHH!

HE'S ALL YOURS, PLAY-MATES!

IT WORKED! FUNCTIONING AS A TEAM, WE BEAT THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

GREAT! NOW WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?

WHAT WE *CAME* HERE TO DO.

WE *KILL* HIM, OF COURSE!

18

BUT NOT HERE, ON THIS DESOLATE, ABANDONED MILITARY BASE--AND NOT WHILE HE IS BRUCE BANNER AND UNCONSCIOUS.

THERE WOULD BE LITTLE TO GAIN FROM SUCH A DEATH.

THEN HOW, VECTOR--WHERE?!

AT A TIME AND PLACE OF OUR OWN CHOOSING, VAPOR--WHEN THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE UPON US!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

ME NEITHER! WHAT DO WE NEED AN AUDIENCE FOR?

POWER FOR ITS OWN SAKE IS POINTLESS, IRONCLAD.

AS OF THIS MOMENT, THE WORLD IS UNAWARE THAT WE EXIST. BUT, IF WE WERE TO END THE MENACE OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK, THE NAME OF THE U-FOES WOULD BE ***LEGEND!***

NO ONE WOULD DARE STAND AGAINST US! NO BARRIERS WOULD OUR FELLOW HUMANS DARE PLACE IN OUR WAY! WE COULD GO WHEREVER WE CHOSE-- TAKE WHATEVER WE WISHED!

AND THE ULTIMATE IRONY OF IT IS THAT WE COULD DO SO WITH A WORLD HEAPING UPON US THE PRAISE RESERVED FOR ***HEROES!***

I LIKE IT! I LIKE IT!

19

AS THE U-FOES FLOAT THEIR UNCONSCIOUS CAPTIVE DEEPER INTO THE ABANDONED COMPLEX KNOWN AS GAMMA BASE, THE ALL-SEEING STAR-EYE CONTINUES TO IMPASSIVELY RECORD.

GLEEP!

STURKY, HOWEVER, CANNOT REMAIN SO CALM.

ALWAYS EXCITABLE, THE LITTLE TECHNO-ART CREATION HAS JUST SEEN ONE FOR WHOM HIS MISTRESS FEELS AN AFFINITY, SUFFER A DISASTROUS DEFEAT.

THOUGH HE DOES NOT WISH TO CAUSE HER PAIN, STURKY KNOWS THAT BEREET MUST BE INFORMED.

GREEPLE!

POP!

THANK YOU, STURKY! IT WAS GETTING STUFFY INSIDE THE INSULASPHERE!

GLEEP!

REET!

STREETLE-EEE!

WHAT'S THAT? OH, NO! THE HULK--DEFEATED? CARRIED OFF BY HIS ENEMIES?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NOBODY CAN BEAT THE HULK!

THE U-FOES APPARENTLY HAVE. STURKY SAYS THEY HAVE BORNE DR. BANNER DEEPER INTO GAMMA BASE. WE MUST RESCUE HIM.

OH, NO! NOT THIS TIME!

HUH? BETTY, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

I AM. I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE MOCK HEROICS, ANY MORE INSANITY. MAYBE I'M JUST A COWARD. MAYBE THE BRUCE BANNER I THOUGHT I LOVED NEVER REALLY EXISTED. MAYBE...

20

SLAP!

ENOUGH!

WHY YOU THREE-TOED ALIEN ABSURDITY--!

SILENCE! YOU, BETTY ROSS, ASKED MY HELP WHEN RICK JONES LAY DYING--AND HELP I DID!

NOW, WHATEVER YOUR FEELINGS TOWARDS HIM MAY BE, YOUR FELLOW HUMAN IS IN DANGER--AND HELP HIM YOU SHALL!

AND WHO DO YOU THINK HELPED BRUCE ALL THOSE YEARS WHILE YOU WERE MAKING YOUR SILLY MOVIES?

ALL RIGHT, BIRD-LADY--I'LL HELP! BUT THIS IS THE LAST TIME!

ALL RIGHT--SO WE'RE GONNA HELP THE DOC! THE QUESTION IS: HOW?

AS PARTNER TO FIRST THE HULK, THEN CAPTAIN AMERICA, THEN CAPTAIN MARVEL, I LEARNED THAT TO GO UP AGAINST POWERFUL ENEMIES YOU'VE EITHER GOTTA HAVE POWERS YOURSELF--

--OR GUTS AND ONE HECKUVA PLAN!

SUCH POWER AS YOU SUGGEST IS BEYOND THE ABILITIES OF MY KRYLORIAN TECHNO-ART TO BESTOW, RICK JONES. COURAGE WE MUST FIND WITHIN OURSELVES.

WELL, THAT LEAVES A PLAN...

PATIENCE. WE ARE NOT AS HELPLESS AS IT WOULD APPEAR.

YOU FORGET MY SPATIAL DISTORTER.

HUH? HOW ARE A BUNCH OF PRETTY TOYS GONNA HELP US?!

21

AS YOU SHOULD HAVE GATHERED FROM MY *BANSHEE CRAFT* AND MY *LIFE-SUPPORT SPIDER*, NOT ALL TECHNO-ART CREATIONS ARE MERELY FOR ESTHETIC PLEASURE. NO, MOST ARE CRAFTED WITH SOME UTILITARIAN PURPOSE IN MIND.

SUCH AS THESE *DEFENDROIDS!* TOYS THEY MAY APPEAR...

...BUT, IF SO, THEY ARE THE *DEADLIEST TOYS* IN THE KNOWN GALAXY!

THEY SHALL SEEK OUT AND ENGAGE THE *U-FOES*--LEAVING *US* TO FIND AND FREE *THE INCREDIBLE HULK!*

22

NEXT MONTH: **WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!**

60¢ | 277 NOV 02456

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TM

THE *U-FOES* HAVE VOWED TO RID THE WORLD OF THE HULK--

--SO *BRUCE BANNER* MUST DIE!

S. BUSCEMA/MILGROM

STan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BILL MANTLO SCRIPT / SAL BUSCEMA ART / JOE SINNOTT INKS / JIM NOVAK, BOB SHAREN, LETTERS COLORS / AL MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER LEADER

WHILE THE WORLD WATCHES, THE INCREDIBLE HULK LEARNS:

WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

ALL ACROSS AMERICA, AT THE PEAK OF PRIME TIME, TELEVISION IMAGES FLUTTER AND FADE AS "HILL STREET BLUES" IS PREEMPTED BY A LIVE BROADCAST BOTH UNSCHEDULED AND UNEXPECTED!

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ADJUST YOUR TELEVISION SETS! WE ARE CONTROLLING TRANSMISSION!

WE ARE THE *U-FOES!* WE HAVE CAPTURED *DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER* AFTER DEFEATING HIS EMERALD ALTER-EGO--

--AND TONIGHT, BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES, *WE WILL END THE MENACE OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK FOREVER!*

GO ON-- CHANGE THE CHANNEL--WE DARE YOU!

THE BAXTER BUILDING: NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS OF THE FAMED FANTASTIC FOUR!

HEY! LOOKIT THIS!

WHAT IS IT, BIG FELLA? AMATEUR NIGHT ON "ALL-STAR WRESTLING"?

BEN, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO TUNE IN ENTERTAINMENT SHOWS ON OUR EMERGENCY MEDIA MONITOR?!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, STRETCH --I WUZ WATCHIN' THE 10 O'CLOCK NEWS WHEN THE PICTURE WENT BLOOEY...

...AN' THIS TOOK ITS PLACE!

MOMMY, WHY'D UNCLE BENJY WAKE ME UP?

I DON'T KNOW, FRANKLIN DARLING --BUT HE'D BETTER HAVE A VERY GOOD REASON.

THESE FIVE INDIVIDUALS NEED NO INTRODUCTION. THEY ARE THE HUMAN TORCH, THE THING, MR. FANTASTIC, THE INVISIBLE GIRL, AND THE LATTER PAIR'S SON, FRANKLIN. TOGETHER THEY HAVE SAVED COUNTLESS WORLDS AND COUNTLESS LIVES.

TONIGHT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO SAVE EVEN ONE LIFE.

THAT'S BRUCE BANNER! BEN, WHAT SHOW IS THIS?

DUNNO, STRETCH! BUT THE GUY DOIN' THE TALKIN' SAID IT WAS "LIVE"!

THEN THESE BEINGS CALLED THE U-FOES HAVE CAPTURED THE HULK!

THEY LOOK TOUGH, REED!

BUT NOT AS TOUGH AS US, MATCH-STICK!

WE'VE NEVER BEATEN THE HULK, BEN. THE U-FOES HAVE!

THEY'VE STAKED DR. BANNER OUT LIKE SOME SACRIFICIAL OFFERING FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE! REED, ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO TO HELP HIM?

HELP THE HULK?! BUT HE'S A MONSTER!

YEAH, AIN'T WE ALL.

I'LL TRY TO GET A FIX ON WHEREEVER THAT BROADCAST IS BEING TRANSMITTED FROM.

TRY REED RICHARDS DOES, WITHOUT SUCCESS... 2

...EVEN AS OTHERS FACE SIMILAR FAILURE AT **AVENGERS MANSION.**

NO LUCK LOCATING THE SOURCE OF THE TV SIGNAL, IRON MAN?

NONE, CAP.

SOME STRANGE FORCE IS BLOCKING ALL MY EFFORTS.

WE CAN'T AID THE HULK IF WE CAN'T LOCATE HIM!

IS IT THEN OUR DUTY TO RUSH TO THE AID OF ONE WHOM ALL THE WORLD HAST HERETOFORE PROCLAIMED... **MONSTER?**

MONSTROUS THE HULK MAY BE, THOR--BUT HE'S NEVER BEEN MALEVOLENT.

WHATEVER HAVOC HE WREAKED OVER THE YEARS WAS USUALLY IN REACTION TO THE PRODDING, WELL-INTENTIONED OR OTHERWISE, OF OTHERS.

BESIDES, OUR FRIEND **RICK JONES** HAS STOOD BESIDE THE HULK THROUGH THICK AND THIN, AND THAT'S A GOOD ENOUGH ENDORSEMENT FOR ME!

BESIDES, THE HULK WAS ONE OF THE **ORIGINAL AVENGERS**--

--FIGHTING ALONGSIDE YOU AND I, THOR, AND THE WASP AND HER HUSBAND ANT-MAN!

MY **EX**-HUSBAND, YOU MEAN.

YES, WELL... TIMES CHANGE.

YET, THE HULK WAS EVER AN UNCERTAIN ALLY.

MORE SAVAGE DID HE BECOME, AND UNPREDICTABLE--A DANGER TO HIMSELF AND ALL OTHERS.

STILL--I DO AGREE THAT HE DOTH DESERVE A BETTER FATE THAN **THIS!** SO **FIND** THE HULK, FRIEND IRON MAN--

--AND THOR WILL AID HIM!

3

PERHAPS THE NEWS OF THE HULK'S IMMINENT DEMISE BREAKS HARDEST UPON THOSE WITHIN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF **DR. STRANGE**, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.

THEREIN, OTHERS CHAFE AT THEIR INABILITY TO AID THEIR SOMETIMES TEAMMATE.

MR. HULK'S AT DEATH'S DOOR AND WE--THE ***DEFENDERS***--AREN'T DOING A DARN THING!

WE'VE GOTTA FIND HIM IN ORDER TO HELP HIM, GARGOYLE!

DR. STRANGE IS TRYING TO LOCATE HIM RIGHT NOW, BEAST!

HELLCAT IS CORRECT. WE MUST BIDE BY THE MYSTIC MAGE'S ENCHANTMENTS!

YOU "BIDE", SATAN-SON!

ME, I'M GONNA SEE WHAT'S HOLDIN' THINGS UP!

UH, DOC --ANY LUCK?

NONE, BEAST, I AM SORRY TO SAY!

ALTHOUGH MY ALL-SEEING ORB OF AGAMOTTO REVEALS THAT SAME TRANSMISSION SEEN ON NATIONWIDE TELEVISION--

--I HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL MEANS OF ENCHANTMENT WHICH SHOULD HAVE PINPOINTED ITS SOURCE.

IT IS ALMOST AS IF SOME STRANGE POWER WERE ***DEFLECTING*** MY SPELLS. YET, I MUST KEEP TRYING.

FOR THE MOMENT THE DEFENDERS ARE POWERLESS TO AID THE HULK.

4

OTHERS WHO MIGHT HAVE HELPED ARE EITHER UNABLE ...OR UNAVAILABLE.

MY X-MEN ARE IN SPACE ON A MISSION. CEREBRO, MY MUTANT DETECTING COMPUTER, DOES NOT *REGISTER* THE U-FOES--

--AND MY OWN TELEPATHIC POWERS ARE SOMEHOW BEING BLOCKED!

STILL OTHERS ARE DISINCLINED TO LEND THEIR AID.

THOUGH THE MIGHTY *SUB-MARINER* HAS FOUGHT BOTH BESIDE AND AGAINST THE INCREDIBLE HULK, THERE IS NAUGHT I CAN DO TO HELP HIM NOW.

HE IS A SURFACE-DWELLER, AND HIS FATE MUST BE DETERMINED ON THE SURFACE. MY PLACE IS HERE--HELPING TO RESTORE RAVAGED ATLANTIS!*

*AFTER THE EVENTS RECOUNTED IN ROM #35--AL.

IN NEW YORK CITY, ANGER WELLS UP IN ONE WHO CAN ONLY *HEAR* OF THE HULK'S PERIL.

AS MATT MURDOCK, I ONCE DEFENDED THE HULK BEFORE A COURT OF LAW.*

NOW THAT POOR CREATURE IS ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED WITHOUT A TRIAL!

IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMETHING *DAREDEVIL* COULD DO TO HELP!

*HULK #152-153 TO BE EXACT--AL.

AND, DANGLING FROM A SLENDER WEB-LINE OUTSIDE THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING...

WHERE'S PETER PARKER? THIS IS THE HOTTEST SCOOP OF THE CENTURY!

FOR ONCE JOLLY JONAH JAMESON'S RIGHT-- THE HULK'S DEFEAT *IS* BIG NEWS!

BUT IF I KNEW WHERE OL' GREENSKIN WAS, *SPIDER-MAN* WOULDN'T GO TO PHOTOGRAPH HIM--BUT TO *FREE* HIM!

5

IN CANADA...

YOU SAY WE SHOULD AID THE HULK, SASQUATCH?

HE HELPED ME DEFEAT WENDIGO, SHAMAN.* I OWE HIM ONE.

BESIDES, HE'S NO LONGER REALLY A MONSTER NOW THAT HE POSSESSES BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN.

STILL, HIS FATE WOULD SEEM TO BE A MATTER OF U.S. CONCERN.

IS SNOWBIRD RIGHT, VINDICATOR?

I'M AFRAID SO, NORTHSTAR. *ALPHA-FLIGHT* WOULD NEED OFFICIAL CLEARANCE TO GO INTO ACTION IN THE STATES.

AND EVEN *THEN* WE WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO TO HELP THE HULK.

*HULK #272--AL.

IN THE SOVIET UNION...

VANGUARD-- DARKSTAR, LOOK! OUR SATELLITES MONITOR AN AMERICAN TELEVISION TRANSMISSION DEPICTING THE HULK IN DIRE STRAITS!

HE FOUGHT BESIDE WE *SOVIET SUPER-SOLDIERS* AS AN ALLY ONCE, MAJOR URSUS--AND SAVED NOT ONLY THE SOVIET UNION, BUT THE ENTIRE WORLD!*

WE SHOULD GO TO HIS RESCUE, BUT I DOUBT OUR GOVERNMENT WOULD ALLOW US TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

*HULK #258-259--AL.

AND, COMING FULL CIRCLE IN THE UNITED STATES PENTAGON...

THE HULK CAPTURED--ABOUT TO BE KILLED! GENERAL ROSS, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

WELL, WE COULD HAVE THE ARMY FIFE & DRUM CORPS STRIKE UP A VICTORY MARCH, SAMSON.

SHORT OF THAT, I DON'T SEE WHY YOU FEEL THE MILITARY SHOULD DO ANYTHING TO SAVE THAT GAMMA-SPAWNED MENACE.

CAN'T YOU FEEL ANY COMPASSION AT ALL FOR BRUCE BANNER, GENERAL?

FOR BANNER? A LITTLE, BUT BANNER'S INSEPARABLE FROM THE HULK--

--AND THE HULK HAS WREAKED UNTOLD DESTRUCTION OVER THE YEARS...

...AND WAS AT LEAST *PARTIALLY* RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MY SON-IN-LAW, MAJOR GLENN TALBOT.*

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT I'M NOT GOING TO BE IN ON THE KILL!

*HULK #260--AL.

ROSS IS BITTER! HE DEVOTED HIS CAREER TO CAPTURING THE HULK, AND NOW OTHERS HAVE STOLEN OLD "THUNDERBOLT'S" THUNDER.

BUT I PSYCHOANALYZED THE HULK. I KNOW THAT OFTEN HE COULDN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS.

I WANT TO HELP, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE...

WAIT A MINUTE! YES I *DO* KNOW WHERE!

WHAT DOC SAMSON HAS DISCOVERED, HE KEEPS TO HIMSELF... FOR NOW.

6

MEANWHILE, IN THE OVAL OFFICE ITSELF...

SOME OF MY MILITARY ADVISORS HAVE BEEN COUNSELING ME TO CLEAR THEM FOR ALL-OUT ACTION AGAINST THE HULK.

NOW IT APPEARS THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT, IF THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOTHING-- SOMEBODY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL EVENTUALLY DO SOMETHING!

THE U-FOES' CAPTURE OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS NOT ONLY BEING MONITORED ON EARTH, BUT BY THOSE ABOARD AN ORBITING --AND UNDETECTABLE-- SPACE SATELLITE, AS WELL!

AND WITHIN THE MASSIVE CRAFT...

WHY SO GLUM, MY MASTER? YOU SHOULD REJOICE! YOUR ENEMY IS AS GOOD AS DEAD!

YOU SHOULD REJOICE, LITTLE JACKDAW, THAT YOU ARE ***NOT*** DEAD! YOUR DELIBERATE DISOBEDIENCE NEARLY JEOPARDIZED MY LONG-RANGE PLANS!

STILL, YOUR UNAUTHORIZED ATTACK UPON THE HULK--USING A HERETOFORE SECRET WEAPON YOU FOUND DURING YOUR RAID ON GAMMA BASE*-- DID YIELD UNEXPECTED KNOWLEDGE.

MY EMERALD ENEMY NOW PERMANENTLY POSSESSES THE BRAIN OF HIS BRILLIANT ALTER-EGO... DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER.

SHOULD BANNER SURVIVE HIS CAPTURE BY THE U-FOES--

--HE AND I WILL STAND IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIP TO EACH OTHER. IT COULD PROVE MOST... INTERESTING.

*OUR MYSTERY MAN'S TALKING ABOUT MEGALITH, IN HULK #275--AL.

THUS THE WORLD --AND THOSE OUT OF THIS WORLD-- WATCH AND WAIT...

...AS THE CURTAIN RISES ON AN ABANDONED MILITARY COMPLEX CALLED **GAMMA BASE** FOR THIS, THE FINAL ACT OF A DRAMA TENTATIVELY TITLED "THE DEATH OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!"

WOW, BEREET! WHEN I ASKED WHAT WE COULD DO TO HELP THE ***HULK***--

--I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D GO AND PULL ***WEAPONS*** OUT OF YOUR LITTLE ***HIP-BAG!***

MY ***TECHNO-ART CREATIONS*** WERE NOT DESIGNED AS WEAPONS, RICK JONES--

7

--BUT, IF WEAPONS ARE WHAT IS NEEDED TO SAVE DR. BANNER FROM THE UNCANNY U-FOES, THEN THAT IS THE PART MY CREATIONS MUST PLAY.

BEREET IS AN ARTIST--AN ALIEN FROM THE FAR-OFF PLANET KRYLOR.

HER INNOCENT-LOOKING "PURSE" IS, IN ACTUALITY, A SPATIAL DISTORTER ... THERE IS VASTLY MORE SPACE WITHIN IT THAN IS EVIDENT FROM WITHOUT.

AND, STORED IN THAT UNLIMITED SPACE ARE DEVICES SUCH AS THESE!

GREAT! IF YOUR TOYS CAN DISTRACT THE U-FOES, MAYBE WE CAN REACH THE DOC!

WHY SHOULD WE WANT TO?

WE CAME TO THE DESERT WITH BRUCE BANNER TO HELP HIM DESTROY THE HULK! INSTEAD, BRUCE AND THE HULK HAVE BECOME ONE!

THE WORLD WOULD BE BETTER IF WE LET THE MONSTER PERISH.

YOU KNOW, LADY, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER--BUT TONIGHT I'M SEEING A SELFISH SIDE OF YOU I NEVER SAW BEFORE!

YOU NEVER LOVED BRUCE BANNER FOR WHAT HE WAS--ONLY FOR THE SAFE, SECURE LIFE YOU HOPED HE'D GIVE YOU ONCE THE HULK WAS ACED!

AND IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOUR INFANTILE STUPIDITY--

--THERE NEVER WOULD HAVE ARISEN A *HULK* TO COME BETWEEN ME AND THE MAN I LOVED!

BUT WHY DO YOU WANT THE WORLD TO HAVE THE *HULK* SO BADLY? I'LL TELL YOU WHY!

IT'S BECAUSE--WITHOUT THE HULK--RICK JONES IS ONE BIG **ZERO!**

BETTY, I'M NOT EVEN GONNA DIGNIFY THAT WITH A RESPONSE!

SILENCE, BOTH OF YOU!

I--WHO HAVE NO EMOTIONAL INVESTMENT IN SAVING THE HULK--AM SACRIFICING MY BELOVED TECHNO-ART CREATIONS TO LIBERATE HIM!

GIVEN YOUR PROFESSED LOVE OF BRUCE BANNER, CAN YOU DO ANY LESS?

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYBODY, BIRD-LADY! THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE HELPING--

--IS BECAUSE ALL THIS ACTION WILL MAKE GREAT GRIST FOR YOUR NEXT *MOVIE* ABOUT THE HULK!

TRUE, THAT WAS MY REASON FOR JOURNEYING TO EARTH--I WILL NOT DENY IT.

BUT, SINCE MEETING DR. BANNER AND HIS EMERALD ALTER-EGO IN THE FLESH--

--I FIND THAT THE FAME I WILL ACHIEVE BY PRODUCING MY FILM IS SECONDARY TO SAVING THE LIFE OF ITS STAR.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? *ALIEN LOVE!* BRUCE BANNER CERTAINLY HAS A WAY WITH THE WOMEN--OR IS IT THE HULK *YOU* LOVE, TOO?

I SAID NOTHING OF LOVE, BETTY ROSS!

NOW AGAIN I BID YOU--*BE SILENT!*

THE U-FOES ARE VERY NEAR!

9

INDEED THEY ARE!

AWRIGHT, VECTOR -- YOU'VE PLAYED OUT OUR VERSION OF THE "TONIGHT SHOW" AN' TOLD THE WORLD WHAT IT IS WE'RE GONNA DO TO THE HULK!

OH, IRONCLAD -- WHY ARE YOU SO DENSE? WE'VE BEEN OVER ALL THAT BEFORE! VECTOR, YOU EXPLAIN IT TO HIM!

WHAT I STILL DON'T GET IS... ***WHY*** ARE WE GONNA DO IT?!

I WILL ATTEMPT TO ENLIGHTEN OUR TEAM-MATE ONCE AGAIN, VAPOR--

--BUT I HOLD FORTH LITTLE HOPE THAT HE WILL EVER UNDERSTAND.

DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU CAN'T TURN YOURSELF INTO THE ***HULK***, DR. BANNER? IT'S BECAUSE THE ***ENERGY-GRID*** YOU'RE HANGING ON AND THE ***GAMMA NEGATIVE RAYS*** I'M EMITTING NEUTRALIZE THE ***GAMMA POSITIVE RAYS*** THAT TRIGGER YOUR TRANSFORMATION!

KEEP HIM SUBDUED, X-RAY--

10

--WHILE I REMIND IRON-CLAD WHY--AND HOW--IT WAS WE FOUR BECAME... THE *U-FOES!*

IT STARTED WITH A SPACE-FLIGHT IN AN UNSHIELDED ROCKET!

"WE FLEW FORTH INTO A VIOLENT *COSMIC RAY STORM*, HOPING TO PROCURE POWERS GREATER THAN THOSE SIMILARLY OBTAINED BY THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!* BUT BRUCE BANNER INTERFERED WITH OUR PLAN!

COSMIC RAY ACTIVITY'S AT ITS PEAK!

IF I DON'T BRING THOSE ASTRONAUTS BACK, THEY'LL BE KILLED!

"OVERRIDING OUR COMPUTERS, BANNER RETURNED OUR CRAFT TO A RATHER HARSH TOUCH-DOWN IN THE DESERT.

GOOD LORD! NOTHING HUMAN COULD SURVIVE SUCH A CRASH!

"BUT WE WERE NO LONGER HUMAN! THE COSMIC RAYS HAD GIVEN US THAT POWER WHICH WE SOUGHT!

"SINCE I--MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST SIMON UTRECHT--HAD FINANCED THE FLIGHT...

"... WE CALLED OURSELVES THE *U-FOES!*

"BANNER BECAME THE *HULK!* WE FOUGHT HIM--NEARLY DEFEATED HIM-- WHEN OUR OWN POWER TURNED AGAINST US!

I'M GETTIN' HEAVIER-- SINKIN' INTO THE GROUND!

AND I'M DISSIPATING-- DRIFTING AWAY ON THE BREEZE!

THE COSMIC RAYS THAT GAVE ME THE POWER TO DEFLECT OBJECTS ARE RUNNING WILD--

--DEFLECTING ME OFF THE VERY EARTH!

WHILE I'M SHEDDING ALL MY RADIATION IN ONE BIG BURN-OUT!

"THE HULK STOOD AND WATCHED, UNCOMPRE-HENDING."

BUT MAYBE NOW THAT HE'S BRUCE BANNER HE'LL DIG THAT IT WAS *HIS* INTERFERENCE THAT SUBJECTED US TO ENOUGH OF THE COSMIC RAYS TO GAIN OUR POWERS--

--BUT TOO LITTLE TO GAIN CONTROL OVER THEM AS THE FF DID!

MAN, YOU DOOMED US TO A FATE WORSE THAN *DYING!**

*AS RECOUNTED IN HULK #254--AL.

"AND I KEPT RIGHT *ON* DYING A LIVING DEATH, UNTIL EXPOSURE TO COSMIC RAYS IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE ENABLED ME TO FINALLY GET CONTROL OVER MY RADIATION POWERS.

"I SOUGHT OUT THE OTHERS AND BOOSTED THEIR POWER CONTROL!

"THEN VAPOR SAVED VECTOR BY SURROUNDING HIM IN AN OXYGEN CLOUD--

"--WHILE I BOMBARDED THE DESERT, WHERE IRONCLAD WAS LAST SEEN SINKING, WITH COSMIC RAYS!

"PRETTY SOON HE ROSE UP OUT OF THE EARTH* POLISHED SMOOTH AS SILVER BY THE HEAT AND PRESSURE AT THE EARTH'S CORE, AND JOINED US BACK AT THE COMPLEX WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!

*UNKNOWINGLY AIDED AND ABETTED BY THE HULK HIMSELF. SEE ISSUE #274 --EDITORI-AL.

WE CRAVED POWER FOR ITS OWN SAKE! NOT THE FINANCIAL POWER OF THE RICH--NOT THE *PHYSICAL* POWER WE NOW POSSESS--BUT THE POWER TO INSTILL *FEAR* IN OUR FELLOW HUMANS!

AND WE'LL *GET* THAT POWER--THAT FEAR--BY DESTROYING THE MONSTER MEN CALL THE *HULK* WHERE ALL OTHERS HAVE FAILED!

AN' GET EVEN WITH YOU FOR MESSIN' US UP IN THE *FIRST* PLACE!

WOW! *REVENGE* AND *RECOGNITION* IN ONE FELL SWOOP? I LIKE IT!

AND WHILE THE WHOLE WORLD'S IN AWE OF OUR POWER--WE'LL RAKE 'EM OVER THE COALS!

I'VE TRIED TO TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO THE HULK! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO, MERELY BY WILLING THE CHANGE!

BUT X-RAY'S POWER AND THIS ENERGY-GRID SIPHONS MY STRENGTH!

THE U-FOES ARE GOING TO MURDER ME BEFORE A WORLD-WIDE TELEVISION AUDIENCE, AND AS THE HULK I MADE SO MANY ENEMIES OVER THE YEARS--

--THAT THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE I CAN COUNT ON TO HELP ME!

12

SOMETIMES, DR. BANNER, IT PAYS TO BE WRONG!

THERE ARE DR. BANNER AND HIS CAPTORS-- JUST AHEAD OF US!

ALL RIGHT, BEREET--WE KNOW THE PLAN! LET YOUR PETS GO--

NOW!

WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME--?!

THEY SCURRY, SCAMPER, SLITHER AND SOAR...

...AND THEIR UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL UPON THE SCENE CATCHES THE U-FOES COMPLETELY OFF GUARD!

WHAT THE HECK--?!

VECTOR, I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEFLECTING ALL ATTEMPTS TO DISCOVER OUR LOCATION!!

I WAS! I AM!

THEN HOW DID *THOSE* THINGS FIND US?!

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS WHY NO ONE ELSE HAS RUSHED TO THE HULK'S RESCUE! VECTOR'S BEEN SHIELDING THE SOURCE OF THE TV TRANSMISSIONS!

ALL RIGHT, GROUP-- IT'S UP TO US THEN! LET'S FREE THE DOC!

13

AS BEREET'S TECHNO-ART CREATIONS DIVERT THE U-FOES, THE INTREPID TRIO MOVES TO FREE BRUCE BANNER!

CAN'T RELY ON YOU FOR MUCH OF ANYTHING, CAN WE, VECTOR?

I DID MY JOB! THE ONLY EXPLANATION IS THAT THESE CREATURES WERE ALREADY *PRESENT* AT GAMMA BASE WHEN WE ARRIVED!

RICK--BEREET, LISTEN TO ME! THE ENERGY GRID BRUCE IS ON NEUTRALIZES HIS POWER!

IF WE LEAVE HIM ON IT JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER--

--IT MIGHT *CURE* HIM OF BECOMING THE *HULK* FOREVER!

SURE--AN' THEN THE U-FOES WON'T EVEN HAVETA WORK UP A SWEAT TO *KILL* HIM!

BRUCE BANNER'S SALVATION LIES IN HIS BEING ABLE TO BECOME THE *HULK* AGAIN!

GO, MY ENERGY-EATERS!

LIKE SENTIENT WIRE-CUTTERS, BEREET'S TECHNO ART CREATION FLIES FROM HER HAND...

...AND BEGINS TO EAT ITS WAY THROUGH THE ENERGY GRID ON WHICH BRUCE BANNER HAS BEEN HUNG!

I-I DON'T BELIEVE I'M SEEING THIS--!

BELIEVE, DOC--AND SHAKE IT!

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE U-FOES FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!

RICK! BETTY! YOU'VE RISKED YOUR LIVES TO FREE ME?!

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR, DOC!

BRUCE, WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE U-FOES KNOW YOU'VE BEEN FREED!

GET OUT?! DOC, YOU'VE GOTTA BECOME THE *HULK* AN' TRASH 'EM FOR WHAT THEY DID TO YOU!

NO! WHY RISK YOUR LIFE AGAIN? WHY FIGHT IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO!

BETTY, AS MUCH AS I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU, I DON'T SEE THAT I HAVE MUCH *CHOICE* IN THE MATTER NOW!

BANNER--HE'S FREE!

WHAT?!

SO, DR. BANNER-- YOUR FRIENDS WERE MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN WE GAVE THEM CREDIT FOR!

I KNEW WE SHOULDA SMASHED 'EM INSTEAD OF LEAVIN' 'EM ALONE!

STILL, THEIR DIVERSIONARY TACTIC FAILED!

YEAH! WE PULPED THEIR TOYS -- AND WE'VE *STILL* GOT BRUCE BANNER!

15

NO, U-FOES!
YOU DON'T HAVE--
--BRUCE BANNER!
YOU ONLY HAVE--
--THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
CRIPES! I'LL NEVER GET OVER THAT!
ALL HE HADDA DO WAS *WILL* THE CHANGE!
X-RAY! USE YOUR MASTERY OVER ALL FORMS OF RADIATION TO EMIT MORE *GAMMA NEGATIVE RAYS*--
--AND TRANSFORM THE HULK *BACK* TO BANNER AGAIN!
YEAH! WHY NOT? IT WORKED BEFORE!
IT WORKED BECAUSE IT WAS UNEXPECTED, X-RAY!
THIS TIME I'M READY FOR YOU--
--WITH A WEAPON RIPPED FROM YOUR OWN RADIATION-ABSORBING *ENERGY-GRID!*
HUH? WHAT?! I'M CAUGHT! I CAN'T FLY FREE!
IT NEUTRALIZED *MY* POWER--I WAS WILLING TO BET IT WOULD NEUTRALIZE *YOURS!*
AND IT LOOKS LIKE I BET RIGHT!
16

NOW THAT YOU'RE CONTAINED, YOU'RE SEMI-SOLID! JUST *HOW* SOLID, WE'LL DETERMINE BY MEANS OF A VERY SIMPLE EXPERIMENT!

I HURL YOU AGAINST THAT FAR WALL, AND LISTEN CAREFULLY FOR THE ENSUING...

SFWAP!

GNNGGH!

I NEVER MUCH LIKED THAT PUP, BANNER--BUT HE *WAS* MY TEAMMATE, AND I LIKE *YOU* EVEN LESS!

X-RAY IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER! YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET EVER LAYING HANDS ON HIM, HULK!

I DOUBT IT, U-FOES! X-RAY WAS THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF CHANGING ME BACK TO BRUCE BANNER! WITH HIM OUT OF THE PICTURE--

--YOU'RE DEALING WITH ONE VERY ANGRY *HULK!*

GREENSKIN, THAT SUITS *IRONCLAD* JUST FINE!

THE TITANS--ONE SPAWNED BY GAMMA RAYS AND THE OTHER BY COSMIC RAYS--CLASH!

17

HOW CAN BRUCE BANNER SOUND SO *SAVAGE?!*

HOW WOULD *YOU* SOUND IF IT HAD BEEN *YOUR* LIFE ON THE LINE?

HE'S GOT THE *POWER* OF OL' JADE-JAWS NOW--THE *BRAINS* TO PUT IT TO GOOD USE--AND ONE HECKUVA DESIRE FOR *REVENGE!*

YOUR POWER IS INDEED AWESOME, HULK! MATCHED MUSCLE FOR MUSCLE, I BELIEVE YOU COULD DEFEAT IRONCLAD!

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, VAPOR? I AIN'T EVEN WARMED UP TO THIS FIGHT YET!

PERHAPS, IRONCLAD-- BUT I BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE POWER OF VAPOR TRANSCENDS MERE PHYSICAL MIGHT!

TRANSFORMING YOURSELF INTO A CAUSTIC, CORROSIVE GAS, VAPOR?! YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT MIGHT HURT ME-- EVEN *KILL* ME-- IF I LET IT TOUCH MY FLESH!

SO I WON'T! HERE-- GIVE *IRONCLAD* YOUR ACID-BATH!

YEEARRGHH! V-VAPOR, BY ALL THAT'S HOLY-- YOU'RE MELTIN' MY METAL SKIN-- *BURNIN' ME ALIVE!*

B-BUT I DIDN'T MEAN...!

DO SOMETHIN'! HELP ME! STOP THE PAIN!

NASTY, VAPOR. I'M GLAD I DECIDED NOT TO BE THE ONE TO ACCEPT YOUR FAVORS.

IRONCLAD'S FLESH-- THE ACID IS PITTING IT, POCKING IT -- BURNING ITS WAY EVER INWARD!

I'M *DYIN'*! YA GOTTA *HELP* ME!

VAPOR! TRANSFORM YOURSELF INTO AN *ANESTHETIC GAS!* AND ENVELOP IRONCLAD! NUMB HIS PAIN!

HURRY, WOMAN! IT'S HIS ONLY CHANCE!

Y-YES! I WILL!

AND WHILE VAPOR PLAYS NURSE TO THE U-FOE'S STRONGMAN--

--THAT LEAVES ME FREE TO TURN ALL MY ATTENTION TO VECTOR, THE TEAM-LEADER, WHICH IS JUST THE WAY I PLANNED IT!

SAVAGE OR INTELLIGENT, HULK, YOU'VE EXPERIENCED MY POWER! YOU KNOW WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF!

YES! YOU *DEFLECT* MATTER, ORGANIC OR INORGANIC!

CORRECT! AND THAT MEANS I CAN EITHER DEFLECT *YOU* AWAY FROM ME, OR DEFLECT THE ENTIRETY OF GAMMA BASE AT YOU TO *KEEP* YOU AWAY!

DEFLECT ALL YOU WANT, VECTOR! YOU WON'T STOP ME!

AND, WHEN I REACH YOU, *I'M GOING TO BREAK YOUR LOUSY NECK!*

19

NO! YOU WON'T REACH ME, HULK! I WON'T LET YOU! NOTHING CAN DEFY MY POWER.

NOTHING, VECTOR?

NOT EVEN *ME*?!

NOT EVEN *THE INCRE-DIBLE HULK*?!

NOTHING!!!

VECTOR'S DEFLECTING ALL OF *GAMMA BASE* AT THE HULK! WE'VE GOTTA SEEK SHELTER BEFORE WE'RE CRUSHED OR DEFLECTED AWAY!

BUT MY PET, STURKY, *ATE* THE *INSULA-SPHERE* IN WHICH WE SOUGHT SHELTER EARLIER!

I HAVEN'T THE MATERIALS, OR THE TIME, TO CONSTRUCT ONE NOW!

20

THEN WE'VE GOTTA *RUN*, BEREET--AND HOPE WE GET OUTTA HERE ALIVE!

WAIT! JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT TO RETRIEVE MY *STAR-EYE!*

YOUR MOVIE-CAMERA? NO WAY, BIRD-LADY! LEAVE IT! I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU--

--BUT IF YOU GO BACK IN THERE TO GET IT YOU RUN THE RISK OF BEING AWARDED A KRYLORIAN OSCAR *POSTHUMOUSLY!*

SENSING THAT RICK JONES IS RIGHT, BEREET ALLOWS HERSELF TO BE LED FROM THE HOLOCAUST.

AND HOLOCAUST IT IS FOR, IN DESPERATION, THE BEING CALLED VECTOR RAISES BOTH HANDS HIGH AND--STRAINING HIS POWER TO ITS LIMITS--DEFLECTS THE ENTIRE COMPLEX BACK TOWARDS THE HULK IN A CRUSHING, CRASHING TIDAL WAVE OF TWISTED METAL AND DEBRIS!

Y-YOU'RE STILL COMING! WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO--THROW THE ENTIRE *WORLD* AT YOU?!

YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY, VECTOR--NOT THAT I THINK IT WOULD DO YOU ANY GOOD!

YOU SEE, IN THE LAST FEW HOURS YOU'VE THREATENED MY LIFE, HELD ME UP TO PUBLIC HUMILIATION, ENDANGERED MY FRIENDS...

M-MY HANDS! NO ONE LIVING SHOULD BE ABLE TO GRASP MY HANDS!

THAT'S YOUR THIRD AND LAST MISTAKE, VECTOR! YOU'VE MADE ME EXTREMELY *MAD!*

AND, ONE CHARACTERISTIC OF MY BEING THE *HULK* IS--

--THAT THE *MADDER* I GET, THE *STRONGER* I GET!

CRUNCH!

EEYAAGHH!

THREE STRIKES... AND YOU'RE OUT!

NEXT MONTH: THE MOST ASTONISHING TALE YOU'RE EVER LIKELY TO READ! *AMNESTY!*

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
60¢
278
DEC
02456

THE INCREDIBLE HULK JOINS SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS ON NBC SATURDAY, SEPT. 11th

©1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TM

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

®

S.B./A.M.

GIVE ME *AMNESTY*... OR GIVE ME DEATH!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BILL MANTLO WRITER / SAL BUSCEMA & JOE SINNOTT ARTISTS / JIM NOVAK, LETTERS BOB SHAREN, COLORS / AL MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AMNESTY!

GAMMA BASE.

BRUCE BANNER! HULK! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME!

I'VE COME TO HELP YOU!

THE GREEN-HAIRED GENTLEMAN WHO'S JUST BROUGHT HIS ONE MAN HOVERJET IN FOR A LANDING IS **DR. LEONARD SAMSON**, AND YOU MIGHT CONSIDER THIS A HOUSE CALL... A COURTESY EXTENDED TO ONE GAMMA-IRRADIATED BEING BY ANOTHER.

CONTINUING THE CHRONICLES OF THE INTELLIGENT HULK!

1

THAT'S REALLY VERY SWEET OF YOU, LEONARD, BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE. BRUCE-- THE HULK-- IS GONE.

BETTY ROSS!

YES, ABANDONED AMIDST THE RUINS. WHY DO YOU LOOK SO STARTLED, LEONARD?

THE EXTENT OF THE DEVASTATION --THE SHEER DESTRUCTION-- IT'S AWESOME.

OH, COME NOW, LEN. YOU'RE NOT ONLY A PSYCHIATRIST, YOU'VE FOUGHT THE HULK YOURSELF. YOU KNOW HIS POWER.

AND YOU MUST HAVE WATCHED THE HULK'S BATTLE WITH THE U-FOES ON TELEVISION, OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE.

YES, I DID! I THINK THE WHOLE WORLD DID!*

BUT I THINK I WAS THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE THE BATTLE-SITE AS GAMMA-BASE!

*WHERE ELSE BUT LAST ISH? --EDITORI-AL.

THEN YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE SAW BRUCE BANNER CAPTURED BY THE UNCANNY *U-FOES*--

--AND YOU WATCHED AS BRUCE TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO THE NEW *INTELLIGENT* HULK--

--COMBINING BRAINS AND BRAWN TO DEFEAT *X-RAY*--

--VECTOR--

--VAPOR AND *IRONCLAD!*

FRANKLY, BETTY, I WAS FASCINATED BY WHAT I WITNESSED. I ONCE PSYCHOANALYZED THE HULK--DIAGNOSING HIS INNER CONFLICT AS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF DUAL PERSONALITIES TRAPPED IN THE SAME BODY.

NOW, WITH BRUCE BANNER IN CONTROL AND THE HULK'S PERSONA SUBMERGED, THAT CONFLICT SEEMS RESOLVED.

YES, I KNOW. HE'S BECOME MUCH LIKE YOU NOW, HASN'T HE?

IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR PSYCHIATRY, A GREAT DAY FOR BRUCE BANNER AND A GREAT DAY FOR THE HUMAN RACE.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.

BETTY, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND BRUCE?

OH, NO. I JUST TOLD BRUCE I COULDN'T LIVE WITH A MAN WHO *LIKED* TURNING INTO A MONSTER--

--SO HE, RICK JONES, AND AN ALIEN FEMALE NAMED BEREET, LEFT SEEKING SOME SORT OF... AMNESTY... FOR THE HULK.

THERE, THERE, BETTY--YOU LOVED BRUCE BANNER, AND NOW YOU THINK YOU'VE LOST HIM. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...

NO, YOU *DON'T*, LEONARD! *NO ONE* KNOWS HOW I FEEL ANYMORE!

NOT EVEN ME!

FOR YEARS BETTY ROSS LOVED BRUCE BANNER. FOR YEARS SHE SUFFERED, DESPERATELY PRAYING SOME CURE WOULD BE FOUND TO PREVENT HIM FROM TURNING INTO THE HULK.

NOW THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR A CURE. BRUCE BANNER IS CAPABLE OF ASSUMING THE HULK'S AWESOME STRENGTH AT WILL-- WITHOUT ANY OF THE ATTENDANT SAVAGERY...

...AND THE WOMAN WHO JUST WANTED TO SHARE A NORMAL LIFE WITH HIM, CANNOT ACCOMODATE HERSELF TO THE CHANGE.

THE BANSHEE-CRAFT SLICES THROUGH THE SKY.

3

WITHIN THE KRYLORIAN STARSHIP, THE ATMOSPHERE IS ONE OF SOMBER SILENCE.

RICK JONES WONDERS WHAT PART HE WILL PLAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INTELLIGENT HULK.

THE HULK--KNOWING HOW THE WORLD FEARS HIM--WONDERS IF HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO LIVE ANY LIFE AT ALL.

AND BEREET--THE BIRD-WOMAN FROM A DISTANT STAR--SITS LITERALLY LINKED TO HER SHIP AS SHE PILOTS THE TRIO ACROSS THE CONTI-NENT.

THEN THE SILENCE IS BROKEN.

THE BANSHEE-CRAFT HAS LOCKED ON THE COORDINATES OF THE CITY YOU CALL NEW YORK. MY SHIP IS NOW ON AUTO-PILOT.

HOW SOON WILL WE BE THERE, BEREET?

SOON. I KNOW YOU CHAFE AT ANY DELAY, DR. BANNER, BUT LINEAR SPATIAL FLIGHT IS NOT AS EASY AS INTER-STELLAR VOYAGING.

THERE ARE TOO MANY ATMOSPHERIC UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING AN INHABITED WORLD FOR ME TO JUST ENTER HYPERSPACE AT ONE POINT AND EMERGE AT ANOTHER.

AND WHEN WE GET TO THAT "OTHER" POINT--WHAT THEN?

I WAS SIDEKICK TO A *SAVAGE* HULK--BUT OL' GREENSKIN'S GOT DOC BANNER'S BRAIN NOW.

WILL HE HAVE ANY USE FOR RICK JONES?

ALL RIGHT, BEREET. THE WORLD MUST BE EXPECTING SOME SORT OF COMMUNICATION FROM ME AFTER WATCHING MY TELEVISED VICTORY OVER THE U-FOES. THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.

4

GLEEP!

YES, STURKY. I KNOW.

WHAT'D YOUR PET TELL YOU, BEREET?

HE WAS REMINDING ME THAT MY TECHNO-ART CREATIONS WHICH I SACRI-FICED TO FREE DR. BANNER FROM THE U-FOES...

...ARE IN NEED OF A PROPER BURIAL.

REEPLE?

YES, STURKY--EVEN THE *STAR-EYE*.

YOU ARE WITNESSING AN ARTIST INTER-RING HER ART, EARTHLINGS. THEY WERE AS PRECIOUS TO ME AS MY OWN CHILDREN.

BURIAL IN SPACE--THE REMAINS OF BEREET'S TECHNO-ART CREATIONS WILL ENDLESSLY ORBIT THE PLANET UPON WHICH THEY MET WITH DESTRUCTION.

IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE I CREATE ANEW.

BUT, THEN, A TRUE TECHNO-ARTIST KNOWS WHEN TO START OVER.

THAT'S SOME-THING I'VE YET TO LEARN.

DO NOT BE SO SULLEN, DR. BANNER. AS THE SAVAGE HULK YOU WERE EVER ALONE.

NOW YOU WILL FIND MANY TO STAND BE-SIDE YOU, MANY WILLING TO HELP YOU BEGIN LIFE AGAIN.

MANY WILLING TO BEFRIEND YOU... OR MORE.

HER TOUCH IS GENTLE, BIRD-LIKE...

5

...YET THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT IT BETOKENS AN UNDER-CURRENT OF DESIRE.

AFTER YEARS OF "FILMING" THE HULK FROM A COSMOS AWAY, THIS ALIEN ARTIST HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER LEADING MAN.

BUT FOR DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER THE REMEMBRANCE OF ANOTHER LOVE IS TOO FRESH...THE WOUND TOO RAW.

BEREET, YOU HELPED ME IN A TIME OF NEED, AT WHAT WAS APPARENTLY A GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICE. YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.

RIGHT NOW YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY *MORE* THAN THAT.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN BY GOING TO NEW YORK CITY, DOC?

ACCEPTANCE, RICK!

THE WHOLE WORLD HAS NOW SEEN THAT THE HULK IS NO LONGER SAVAGE-- THAT HE'S CONTROLLED BY MY MIND, THE MIND OF BRUCE BANNER.

WHILE THAT REALIZATION IS FRESH, I WANT TO SEEK SOME SORT OF AMNESTY-- FORGIVENESS FOR THE DAMAGE MY MONSTROUS ALTER-EGO WROUGHT IN THE PAST. TO GET IT, I'M GOING TO NEED SOME POWERFUL FRIENDS.

AND WHAT DO *I* GET OUT OF HELPING YOU, MY EMERALD ACTOR?

WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE STAR-EYE, MY DOCUMENTARY ON THE HULK IS ENDED ERE IT EVER BEGAN.

6

WHY DO I NOT RETURN TO KRYLOR RATHER THAN SUFFER FURTHER REJECTION?

NOT KNOWING THE ANSWER TO THAT, BEREET AGAIN LINKS HERSELF TO HER BANSHEE-CRAFT AND CONTINUES TOWARDS THE EAST COAST.

BEREET'S TECHNO-ART CREATIONS DRIFT IN SPACE, ABANDONED... BUT NOT FOR LONG.

UNDETECTED, ELECTRO-SCREENS ENSURING ITS INVISIBILITY, A HUGE SPACECRAFT APPEARS.

BRING ME THE ALIEN DEVICE I HAVE IDICATED OMNIVAC.

AT ONCE, SIR!

THERE. THE OBJECT YOU DESIRED HAS BEEN BEAMED ABOARD.

INTERESTING.

I ANALYZE IT AS A VISUAL-STIMULATOR, ABLE TO MAKE THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGES OF WHATEVER IT HAS WITNESSED.

YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT THAT MEANS IN PLAIN ENGLISH, OMNIVAC?

IT LOOKS LIKE A TWISTED CHUNK OF SCRAP METAL, IF YOU ASK ME!

THE ALIEN OBJECT IS A SORT OF *MOVIE CAMERA*, JACKDAW!

ONLY, AS OMNIVAC SAID, THE MOVIES IT MAKES SIMULATE REALITY.

REPAIR IT, OMNIVAC. I WILL BEGIN WORK UPON A SCRIPT.

7

MEANWHILE, THE PASSENGERS ABOARD THE BANSHEE-CRAFT DRAW NEAR TO...

NEW YORK CITY!

NOW WHERE TO, DR. BANNER?

THE BAXTER BUILDING...

"...HEADQUARTERS OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS *FANTASTIC FOUR!*"

IT'S TAKING FOREVER TO FINISH REPAIRING THE DAMAGE WROUGHT BY *TERRAX THE TAMER*, REED!*

IT WOULD TAKE FAR LONGER IF WE WERE LIMITED TO THE NORMAL TECHNIQUES OUR HIRED CONSTRUCTION CREW USED, TORCH!

WOULDJA QUIT JAWIN' AN' TELL HIM TA WELD THIS GIZMO IN PLACE?! I'M HERNIATIN'!

*AS SEEN IN FANTASTIC FOUR #243--AL.

WHILE REED RICHARDS, JOHNNY STORM, AND BENJAMIN J. GRIMM ALL HAVE TASKS TO ATTEND TO...

...THE DISTAFF MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR TENDS TO A FAR MORE PLEASANT, YET EQUALLY TIME-CONSUMING, TASK.

THIS MODEL YOU MADE IS QUITE INTRICATE, FRANKLIN.

I BUILT IT FOR DADDY'S BIRTH...

...DAY! MOMMY! WHO'S THAT?!

SOMEONE *HUGE*... STANDING, STARING AT US-- BLOCKING THE DOOR!

NOW I SEE HIM, FRANKLIN! *IT'S THE HULK!*

HOLD TIGHT TO MOMMY, FRANKLIN! MY INVISIBLE FORCE-SPHERE WILL GET US OUT OF THE OBSERVATION BOOTH AND AWAY FROM THE HULK!

SKRASH!

WHAT THE HEY--?

SUE! FRANKLIN!

REED, THE BAXTER BUILDING IS UNDER ATTACK-- BY THE *HULK!*

THE HULK? BUT WE JUST SAW...

DON'T STOP TO ANALYZE IT, BROTHER-IN-LAW! MY SISTER AND NEPHEW WERE JUST THREATENED--

--AND THAT MEANS RETALIATION... *HUMAN TORCH* STYLE!

A FEW FLAMING FIREBALLS SHOULD KEEP THAT GREAT GREEN GARGOYLE AT BAY!

I'M TALKING TO KEEP MY COURAGE UP! THE HULK'S CREAMED US AS A TEAM WHENEVER WE'VE FOUGHT HIM!

AND YET, THE GREEN GOLIATH MAKES NO MOVE TO COUNTER-ATTACK.

STAND ASIDE, STRETCH! I'VE JUST FIGGERED OUT WHERE TA PUT THIS GIZMO DOWN!

RIGHT UPSIDE THE HULK'S HEAD!

BEN, DON'T--!

FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD, OUR HOME BASE'S JUST BEEN BUSTED INTO, SUZY AN' YER KID'VE BEEN ALL SHOOK UP--

--AN' YER WORRIED ABOUT THIS HUNKA JUNK?! SO YA'LL BUILD A NEW ONE!

BEN, IT'S NOT THE DEVICE I'M CONCERNED WITH!

REED RICHARDS' PROTEST FAILS TO FORESTALL THE TEMPESTUOUS THING. THE DEVICE IS HURLED WITH ALL BEN GRIMM'S MIGHT.

IT TWISTS INTO SO MUCH SCRAP UPON STRIKING THE HULK.

BRAKROOM!

AND STILL THE JADE GIANT DOES NOTHING.

STILL STANDIN', HUH, GREEN-EYES? WE' L, THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!

BEN, STOP IT! I MEAN ***NOW!*** THE HULK'S NOT HERE TO HARM US!

REED, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY ARE YOU DEFENDING THAT... THAT MONSTER?

THE HULK IS ***NOT*** A MONSTER, SUE!

YEAH, AN' MY AUNT PETUNIA AIN'T A SEPTUAGENARIAN!

WELL, THAT IS... SHE AIN'T!*

WAIT A SECOND! REED'S RIGHT!

HE IS?!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE HULK AND THE U-FOES WE SAW ON T.V. LAST NIGHT, BEN?

*AS REVEALED IN FF# 239 --AL, THE READER'S PAL.

10

THE HULK IS NO LONGER SAVAGE-- BUT NOW POSSESSES **BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN!**

THAT'S CORRECT, DR. RICHARDS. I'M SORRY IF I ALARMED YOUR WIFE AND SON, BUT I ASSURE YOU I AM NOT A THREAT.

I KNOW IT'S PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME, IN LIGHT OF THE PAIN MY EMERALD ALTER EGO'S CAUSED YOU IN THE PAST--

--BUT I COME SEEKING YOUR HELP!

IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS, EXPLANATIONS ARE GIVEN AND COMMUNICATIONS ARE MADE AROUND THE WORLD.

SOME TIME LATER, IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL...

...AND SO, GENERAL ROSS, YOU'RE THE MAN WHO'S HAD MORE DEALINGS WITH THE INCREDIBLE HULK THAN ANYONE ELSE ALIVE, THAT'S WHY I'VE SUMMONED YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE!

THUNDERATION, MR. PRESIDENT! I DON'T CARE WHAT THE T.V. **OR** THE URGENT MESSAGE FROM REED RICHARDS SAID!

THE HULK WAS, IS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE A MENACE TO PUBLIC SAFETY!

THEN I GATHER THAT YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD **PARDON** THE HULK, GENERAL?

PARDON THE HULK...? **PARDON?!** MR. PRESIDENT, **NO!!**

AS THE OLD HULK-HUNTER SPUTTERS IN RAGE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RISES, GOES TO THE WINDOW, AND LOOKS OUT ACROSS THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN.

I'M AFRAID THERE ARE SOME MIGHTY POWERFUL PEOPLE OUT THERE, GENERAL, WHO DISAGREE WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE INCRE-DIBLE HULK!

POWERFUL PEOPLE THEY ARE INDEED, AND ALL HAVE ASSEMBLED ON THIS MOST HISTORIC OF MOMENTS TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO A PETITION DRAWN UP BY THE BRILLIANT BLIND ATTORNEY, MATTHEW MURDOCK (ALSO KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL). THEY SEEK A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON FOR THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

MR. PRESIDENT, WE, THE UNDER-SIGNED, BEING CONVINCED THAT THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS NO LONGER A MENACE TO SOCIETY OR THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY, DO HEREWITH PETITION YOU TO PARDON AND GRANT HIM COMPLETE AND TOTAL *AMNESTY!*

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE DAY!

HEY, DOC! WHY SO GLUM? THE HULK'S NOT A MONSTER ANYMORE!

AYE, HELLCAT... BUT IS HE STILL--A *DEFENDER?*

THE SECRET SERVICE HAS GIVEN UP ANY HOPE OF MAINTAINING SECURITY (AFTER ALL, WHO NEEDS IT IN *THIS* CROWD?) AND THE MEDIA TRANSMITS THE CEREMONY TO EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE.

12

13

AND, IN THE OVAL OFFICE...

THE HULK WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MY SON-IN-LAW, COL. GLENN TALBOT!

HE WRECKED MY DAUGHTER'S HOME AND COST ME GAMMA BASE, MY COMMAND!

IS ALL THAT GOING TO BE *FORGOTTEN*? NOT BY "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS IT ISN'T!

I'D BETTER SUMMON CONGRESS INTO EMERGENCY SESSION...

EH? WHAT IN TARNATION IS THAT, UP IN THE SKY?

MR. PRESIDENT, GET DOWN!

GENERAL ROSS, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE DANGER?

THE SAME QUESTION IS BEING ECHOED BY THE MIGHTY ASSEMBLAGE OUTSIDE!

HOLY SMOKES!

CAP, DO *YOU* SEE WHAT *I* SEE?

YES, IRON MAN! *SPACE-SHIPS* -- HUNDREDS OF THEM -- FILLING THE SKY!

IT'S AN--

INVASION!

14

THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE! THOSE SHIPS ARE *KRY-LORIAN!*

YOUR RACE, BEREET?

YES, BUT THE SCENE IS FROM ONE OF MY *MOVIES*...

...A FANTASY, A FICTION... NOT REALITY!

THEN THE FANTASY HAS JUST COME TO LIFE-- AND *THE INCREDIBLE HULK* IS GOING TO BE THE FIRST TO DEAL WITH IT!

ATTAWAY, DR. BANNER!

IT WAS INSTINCT WHICH COMPELLED DR. BRUCE BANNER TO FLEX THE MIGHTIEST LEG MUSCLES POSSESSED BY ANY MORTAL AND PROPEL HIMSELF UP AT THE INVADING FLEET.

BUT IT WAS ALSO ANGER, FOR THIS IS THE GREATEST MOMENT IN HIS LIFE, AND HE WILL NOT HAVE IT TAKEN AWAY!

WHAT VALOR! THE HULK DOTH STRIKE FEARLESSLY ALONE AT YON ALIENS!

WHAT SAY WE LEND OUR FORMER TEAMMATE A HAND, THOR!

WOW, WHAT A SWITCH! EVERY SUPER-TEAM IN AMERICA FLYING TO *HELP* THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

IT IS ESPECIALLY IRONIC SINCE MOST OF US HAVE FOUGHT THE HULK AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN OUR HISTORIES.

BE HE MAN OR MONSTER, THE HULK HAS ALWAYS ACTED COURAGEOUSLY!

VINDICATOR MAY *REPRESENT* CANADA-- BUT I *STRIKE* FOR EARTH!

15

BUT, EVEN AS THE CREAM OF EARTH'S SUPER HERO CROP SOAR SKYWARD, IT IS THE GREEN GOLIATH WHO STRIKES THE FIRST BLOW!

WHAT'S COME OVER ME? I LEAPED WITHOUT THINKING--AS THE HULK WOULD HAVE!

YET I DARED NOT HESITATE WITH THE FATE OF THE NATION'S CAPITOL AT STAKE!

SIGNAL THY SURRENDER, INVADERS FROM THE STARS, FOR THOR DOST CALL THEE... ENEMY!

THOU DOST REMAIN SILENT? HAVE AT THEE, THEN, WITH ALL THE MIGHT MINE ENCHANTED MALLET CAN MUSTER!

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RAISE THE ALIENS ON MY ARMOR'S COMMUNICATOR'S, TORCH, WITHOUT ANY LUCK!

THEN LET'S ASSUME THEY'RE NOT HERE TO PICNIC, AVENGER, AN' LET 'EM HAVE IT!

ZLTRAK

UNNH! TH-THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!

BLAST... DAZED ME! GOOD HEAVENS, WHERE'S THE TORCH?!

BOOM

THE BURST FROM THE ALIEN SPACESHIP SNUFFED OUT HIS FLAME, IRON MAN! HE'S FALLING! AND I CAN'T REVERSE THE DIRECTION OF MY LEAP FAST ENOUGH TO *CATCH* HIM!

DON'T WORRY, HULK. I'LL GET HIM.

16

NO NEED, AVENGER! THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL SAVE THE YOUTH!

THANKS, THOR!

MEANWHILE...

JOHNNY'S SAFE --AN' NOW THE HULK'S LEAPIN' BACK UP AT THE SPACEMEN AGAIN!

IF ONLY MORE OF US WERE ABLE TO FLY!

EAGER FOR ACTION, SHE-HULK? GET READY! SOME OF THE ALIEN FLEET IS COMING IN FOR A LANDING ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN!

TIME FOR US EARTHBOUND FOLK TO SHOW OUR STUFF!

NEITHER THE MIGHTY THING NOR THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK POSSESSES THE POWER THAT THE HULK HIMSELF COMMANDS...

...BUT TOGETHER THEY GET THE JOB DONE!

WE MAKE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM, GREEN LADY...

17

...'SPECIALLY WHEN IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

YOU SAID IT, BLUE-EYES!

SKRAM

THE BATTLE IN THE AIR IS NO LESS FIERCE, NO LESS DEADLY!

IN MY INTANGIBLE STATE, THE ALIENS' RAYS CANNOT HARM ME.

YET NEITHER CAN THE VISION HARM THE ALIENS--

--UNLESS, BY PASSING INTO THE HEART OF THEIR SHIP'S STARDRIVE SYSTEMS--

--I SUDDENLY BECOME SOLID AND DISRUPT THE VERY MOLECULES WITH WHICH I SHARE THIS SPACE.

THE SHIP--POWERLESS--PLUMMETS EARTHWARD.

I SAW NO SIGNS OF LIFE WITHIN IT.

NOR HAVE DOCTOR STRANGE'S MYSTIC PROBINGS DISCERNED ANY INDICATION OF SENTIENCE WITHIN THE STARSHIPS.

ARE THESE DRONE SHIPS WITH WHICH WE DO BATTLE?

IF SO, I NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT CASTING A CERTAIN SPELL--

--WHICH, WREAKING HAVOC WITH ITS GUIDANCE SYSTEMS, WILL SEND THE CRAFT SPINNING CRAZILY TOWARDS THE HEART OF THE VERY SUN!

18

SOME MIND--SOME INTELLIGENCE NOT IMMEDIATELY PRESENT--HAS WITNESSED DR. STRANGE'S POWER, AND MADE THE DETERMINATION THAT IT MUST BE DEALT WITH!

ARRGH! I AM CAUGHT!

PAIN--SO GREAT--CANNOT CONJURE MYSELF FREE!

SAVE YOUR SPELLS, DOCTOR!

THE HULK--LEAPING SKYWARD AGAIN TO SAVE ME!

THANK YOU, MY FELLOW DEFENDER!

DEFENDER? THAT'S RIGHT--AS THE HULK I *WAS* A MEMBER OF YOUR NON-TEAM!

SKRUNCH!

BUT THE HULK'S GOT THE MIND OF BRUCE BANNER NOW, AND I'LL HAVE TO THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT WHETHER I WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF *ANY* TEAM AGAIN!

AFTER ALL, JUST BECAUSE BRUCE BANNER'S GOT THE *POWER* OF THE HULK AT HIS COMMAND DOESN'T MEAN HE HAS TO USE IT!

I CAN BE JUST AS VALUABLE TO EARTH--PERHAPS EVEN MORESO--AS A *SCIENTIST*.

CAN'T I?

19

CAN'T I?

THE QUESTION ALMOST ANSWERS ITSELF.

WHAT SCIENTIST COULD TAKE OUT HALF AN ALIEN INVASION FLEET IN ONE FELL SWOOP?

GREENSKIN'S KNOCKED THE ALIEN SHIPS OUTTA THE SKY, HEROES!

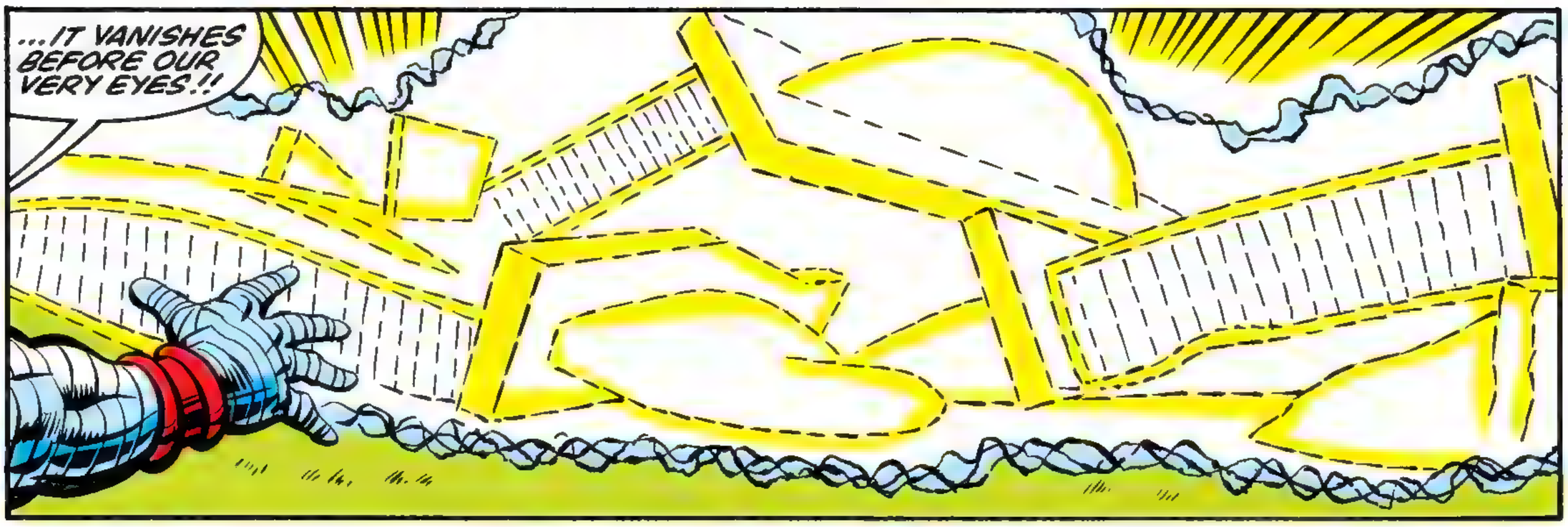
LET'S GIVE THEIR CREWS A WARM, EARTH WELCOME!

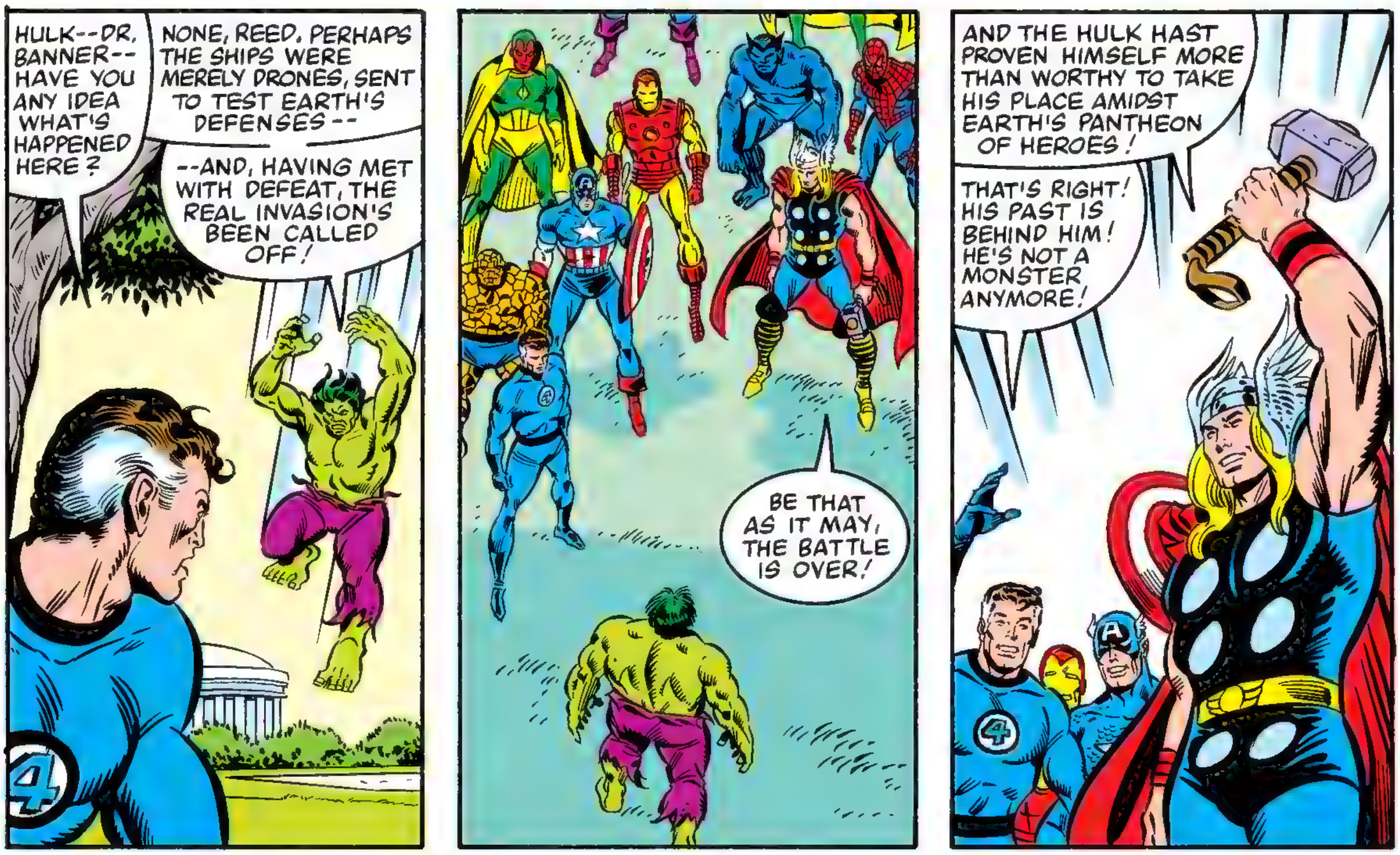
SNIK

BUT, AS THE EARTH HEROES CONVERGE WARILY UPON THE WRECKAGE, EXPECTING AT ANY INSTANT SOME NEW ATTACK TO BE LAUNCHED FROM WITHIN... SOMETHING HAPPENS.

LENIN'S GHOST! THE ALIEN FLEET...

20


...IT VANISHES BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!!


HULK--DR. BANNER--HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
NONE, REED. PERHAPS THE SHIPS WERE MERELY DRONES, SENT TO TEST EARTH'S DEFENSES--
--AND, HAVING MET WITH DEFEAT, THE REAL INVASION'S BEEN CALLED OFF!
BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE BATTLE IS OVER!
AND THE HULK HAST PROVEN HIMSELF MORE THAN WORTHY TO TAKE HIS PLACE AMIDST EARTH'S PANTHEON OF HEROES!
THAT'S RIGHT! HIS PAST IS BEHIND HIM! HE'S NOT A MONSTER ANYMORE!

I...THANK YOU!
21

IN THEIR EXULTATION, EARTH'S HEROES FORGET ABOUT THE "INVASION" THEY'VE JUST ROUTED!

AN INVASION THAT SHOULD NOT--COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED!

I "INVENTED" THAT KRYLORIAN FLEET--MADE IT REAL THROUGH THE VISUAL SIMULATION POWERS OF MY *STAR-EYE!*

BUT THE STAR-EYE HAS BEEN DESTROYED!

RICK JONES, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!

NOT NOW, BEREET! THIS IS THE BIGGEST MOMENT IN MY BIG BUDDY'S LIFE--

--AND I WANT TO SHARE IT WITH HIM!

BUT--!

LATER! WHATEVER IT IS, IT'LL KEEP!

WILL IT?

AND, IN THE OVAL OFFICE...

WELL, GENERAL, FOLLOWING THE HULK'S DEFEAT OF THAT INVASION ATTEMPT, HAVE YOU ANY FURTHER OBJECTIONS TO MY GRANTING HIM AN *UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY?*

I... NO, MR. PRESIDENT --NONE THAT I CAN THINK OF.

MOMENTARILY, WITH A STROKE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PEN, THE HISTORIC DEED IS DONE.

LASTLY, IN SPACE...

THE CURTAIN HAS CLOSED ON YOUR LITTLE DRAMA, SIR!

VERY GOOD, OMNIVAC.

LOOK, WOULD YOU MIND EXPLAINING THIS TO ME?

FIRST, YOU REPAIRED THIS POP-EYED MOVIE PROJECTOR, THEN YOU HAVE IT CREATE A PHANTOM FLEET WHICH THE HULK FIGHTS--

--WITH THE NET RESULT THAT HE, YOUR MORTAL ENEMY, IS HAILED A HERO!

I DON'T GET IT!

OH, BUT SOON YOU WILL, MY DARLING JACKDAW! SOON THE HULK AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL "*GET IT!*"

AND THE LEADER SHALL BE THE ONE WHO GIVES IT TO THEM!

22

NEXT MONTH: EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE, RIGHT? WELL, EVERYONE'LL BE HERE! HOW ABOUT YOU?

ACCEPTANCE!

60¢ | 279 JAN 02456

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1982 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

TM

SO THIS IS WHAT *ACCEPTANCE* FEELS LIKE!

LaRocque

HULK
HULK
HUL
DORAY HULK!
GO GO HULK
YA HOO HULK
IT'S EASY BEING GREEN
HULK
POLICE
D NOT
EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE, RIGHT?

YOU BET THEY DO--ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE'S A MOMENTOUS MEANING TO THE CELEBRATION... SUCH AS WHEN A FORMERLY-FEARED MAN-MONSTER BECOMES A HERO TO THE WORLD AT LARGE!

ACCEPTANCE

ULK

HULK

A NEW ERA IN THE LIFE OF THE HULK
BROUGHT TO YOU BY
BILL MANTLO
AUTHOR
MARK GRUENWALD AND GREG LAROCQUE
ARTISTS
JANICE CHIANG
LETTERS
BOB SHAREN
COLORS

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

2

NEW YORK CITY HONORS THE
HULK

STEP FORWARD, HULK--AND TAKE YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG THE RANKS OF THE WORLD'S HEROES!

3

I...

DON'T BE SHY, DOC!

AFTER ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU'VE *EARNED* THIS!

GOOD DAY. THIS IS DAN RATHER SPEAKING TO YOU LIVE FROM CENTRAL PARK SOUTH IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY--

-- AS THE *INCREDIBLE HULK*, WHO WAS RECENTLY GRANTED A FULL *PRESIDENTIAL PARDON* FOR PAST ACTS OF DESTRUCTION--*

-- MAKES HIS WAY PAST A *MILITARY HONOR GUARD* TOWARDS THE PODIUM WHERE *SUPER-HERODOM ASSEMBLED* WAITS TO WELCOME HIM!

* YOU SAW IT LAST ISH--AL.

FEEL FUNNY NOT TO HAVE THE ARMY SHOOTING AT YOU, DOC? HEY, LOOK AT WHO'S COMMANDING THEM!

COMPANY, ATTENTION!

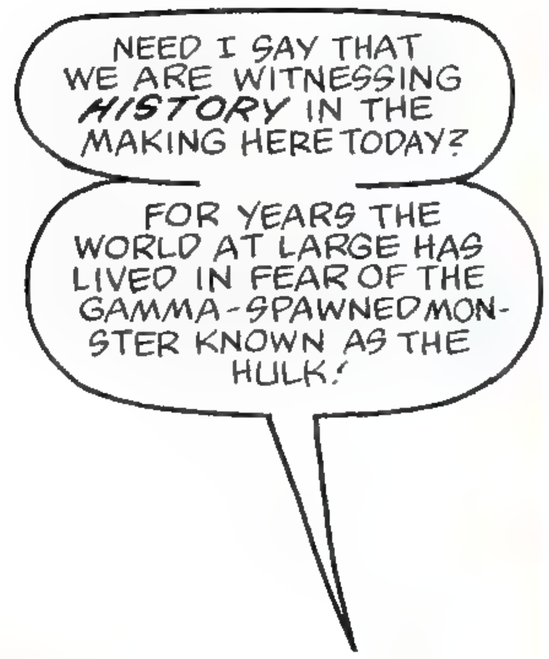
GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDER-BOLT" ROSS

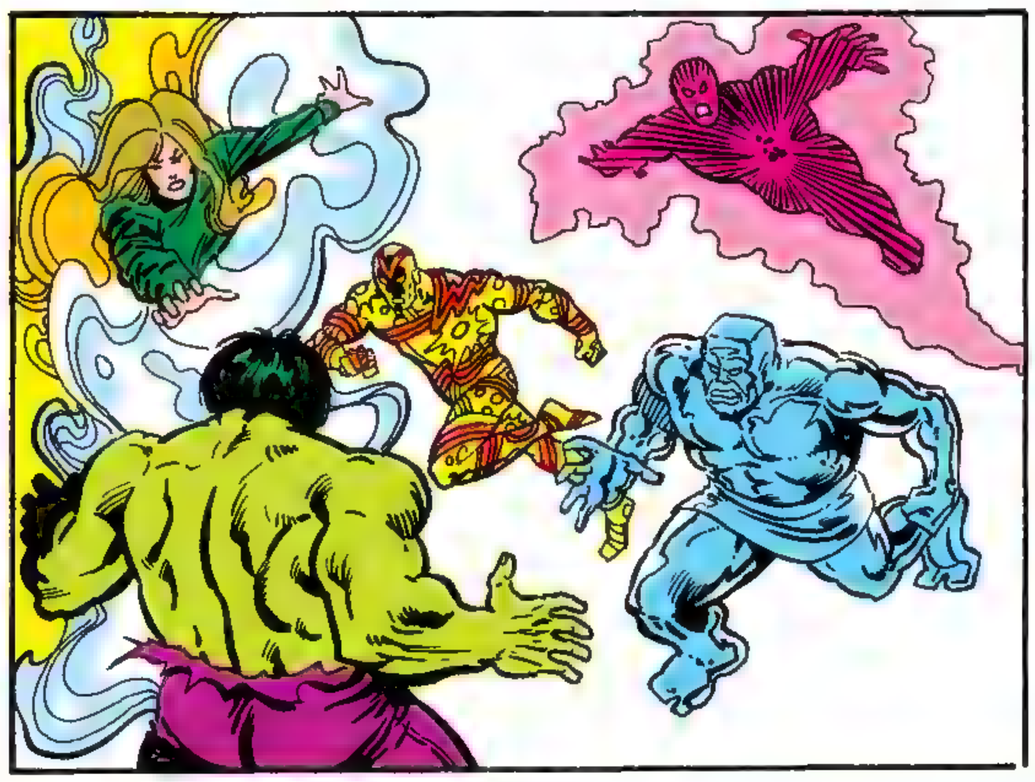
I TRUST THERE'S NO LONGER ANY ENMITY BETWEEN THE HULK AND THE HULK-HUNTER, SIR?

NOT SO LONG AS YOUR BRAIN REMAINS IN COMMAND OF THE BRUTE'S BODY, BANNER!

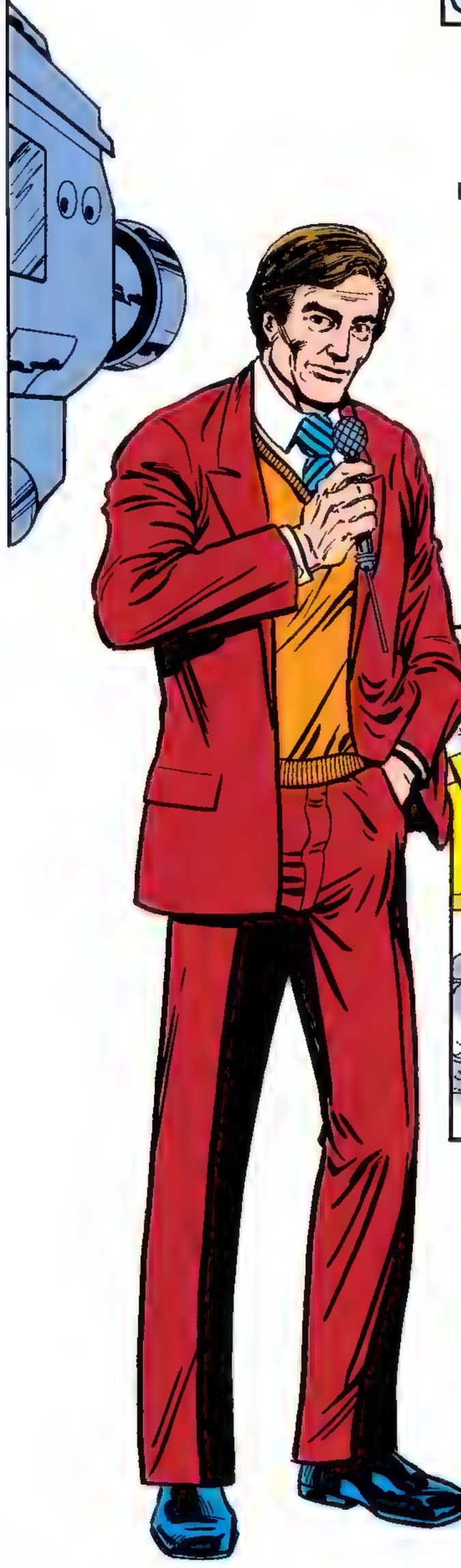
WHILE IT DOES, I'LL ACCEPT YOU... LIKE ALL THE REST!

4

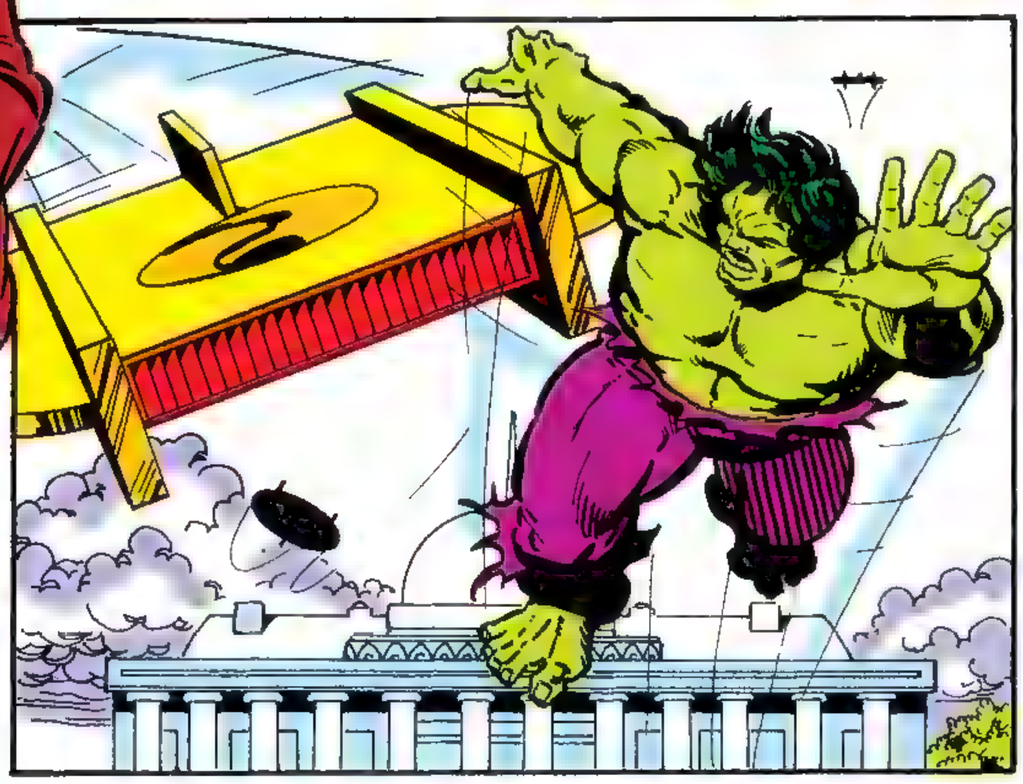

NEED I SAY THAT WE ARE WITNESSING *HISTORY* IN THE MAKING HERE TODAY?
FOR YEARS THE WORLD AT LARGE HAS LIVED IN FEAR OF THE GAMMA-SPAWNED MONSTER KNOWN AS THE HULK!



"THEN A VILLAINOUS SUPER-GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES THE ***U-FOES*** TELECAST THEIR CAPTURE OF THE NEW, ***INTELLIGENT*** HULK... AND, FOR PERHAPS THE FIRST TIME, THE JADE GIANT APPEARED TO HUMANITY AS AN UNDERDOG!

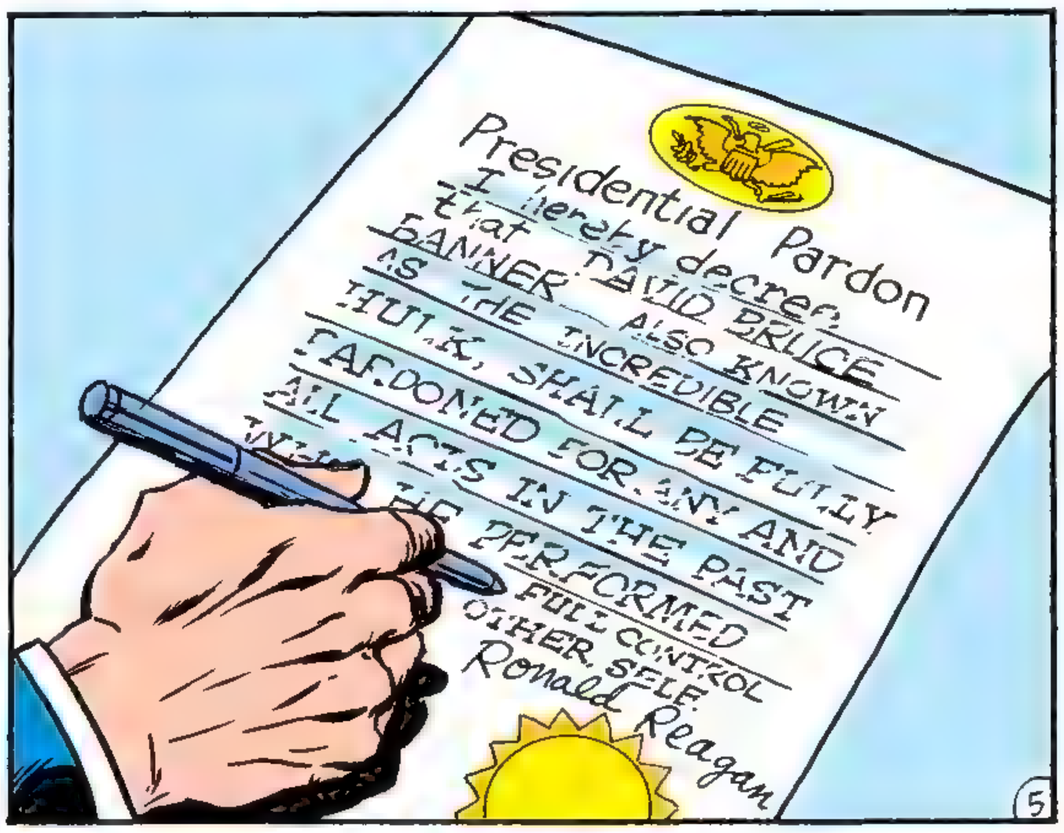


"THE HULK -- POSSESSED NOW OF THE INTELLECT OF ***DR. BRUCE BANNER,*** ONE OF THE NATION'S FOREMOST PHYSICISTS -- TRIUMPHED OVER THE U-FOES... AND SOON AFTER PETITIONED THE PRESIDENT FOR ***AMNESTY!***



"HIS PLEA WAS ADVANCED BY AMERICA'S SUPERHEROES, WHO HAD BECOME CONVINCED THAT THE GREEN GOLIATH WOULD NOW BE A FORCE FOR GOOD! THE HULK QUICKLY HAD A CHANCE TO ***PROVE*** IT, AS HE HELPED DEFEAT A MYSTERIOUS INVASION FLEET WHICH ATTACKED THE NATION'S CAPITOL!

"THEN, WITH A STROKE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PEN, THE PARDON WAS GRANTED, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE WORLD'S FEAR AND LOATHING OF THE HULK WAS ERASED...


Presidential Pardon
I hereby decree that DAVID BRUCE BANNER — ALSO KNOWN AS THE INCREDIBLE HULK, SHALL BE FULLY PARDONED FOR ANY AND ALL ACTS IN THE PAST WHICH HE PERFORMED UNDER FULL CONTROL OF OTHER, SELF.
Ronald Reagan
5

...AND IN ITS PLACE CAME AN OUTPOURING OF FORGIVENESS AND ACCEPTANCE, CULMINATING IN TODAY'S CEREMONY AT CENTRAL PARK!

COME ABOARD, BIG FELLOW! I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS DAY!

YOU AND ME BOTH, DR. RICHARDS!

THE HULK--ONCE A HERO--IS NOW A HERO AGAIN!

UH, MR. THOR, CAN I MAKE THE PRESENTATION NOW?

AYE, VERILY!

DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER--HULK--I'M SURE I SPEAK FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD WHEN I SAY THAT IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE--

--TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS ***KEY TO THE CITY***... A SMALL TOKEN... WELL, NOT SO SMALL...OF OUR FEELINGS TOWARD YOU!

I'M ONLY SORRY FOR ALL THE DAMAGE I WROUGHT UPON NEW YORK IN THE PAST, MR. MAYOR.

TUSH! THE TOURIST TRADE NEVER EVEN NOTICED!

NEW YORK

LET THE WORLD SEE THE KEY, DR. BANNER!

GO AHEAD, HULK! DON'T BE SHY!

WELL, I ***AM*** SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY THIS OUTPOURING OF ACCEPTANCE...

CLAP

SNIK

THERE'S MORE TO COME, HULK!

THE WHOLE COUNTRY WANTS TO WELCOME YOU!

MORE THAN ONE MERE COUNTRY, COMRADE--THE WHOLE WORLD!

YES, AND REALMS BEYOND!

6

AND, AS IF TO UNDERSCORE THE HEROES' WORDS, THE CROWD ASSEMBLED CRIES OUT AS ONE...

HURRAY, HULK!

HULK SOUVE

1982 HULK IN TRAL ARK

YAHOO HULK

HULK THE ONE

BUT NOT EVERYONE IN THE CRUSH REJOICES...

THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR THIS CITY-- HONORING A MENACE LIKE THE HULK! NEXT THING YOU KNOW THEY'LL BE HONORING *SPIDER-MAN!*

SPEAKING OF WHOM...

THERE'S JOLLY J. JONAH JAMESON DOWN THERE-- GLOWERING AS USUAL!

HE PROBABLY HATES THIS HULK HERO-WORSHIP, BUT I'LL BET HE'LL BE GLAD TO GET PETER PARKER'S PIX OF THE EVENT!

SAY, ISN'T THAT BARBARA WALTERS DOWN THERE INTERVIEWING ATTORNEY FRANKLIN NELSON?

MISTER NEWSON, I UNDEWSTAND THAT IT WAS YOUR WAW OFFICE OF NEWSON AND MUWDOCK THAT DWEW UP THE HULK'S AMNESTY PETITION?

WELL, I RESEARCHED PAST PRECEDENTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS, BUT MY PARTNER--

MATT MURDOCK-- DRAFTED THE ACTUAL DOCUMENT.

MATT'S HERE SOMEWHERE...

INDEED I AM, FOGGY...

UP HERE WHERE THE NOISE MADE BY THE CROWD CAN'T PLAY HAVOC WITH MY *RADAR SENSES!*

BUT THANKS FOR GIVING ME CREDIT, OLD FRIEND!

...RK HONORS THE HULK

AND NOW I YIELD THE PODIUM TO *DR. REED RICHARDS*, LEADER OF THE WORLD-FAMED *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

THANK YOU, MR. MAYOR!

7

I'VE KNOWN DR. BRUCE BANNER FOR MANY YEARS, FIRST AS A BRILLIANT PHYSICIST--

--AND THEN AS THE MAN TRAGICALLY TRANSFORMED INTO A MONSTER AS THE RESULT OF ONE OF HIS OWN EXPERIMENTS.

BUT THE HULK WAS ALWAYS A RATHER UNUSUAL "MONSTER"--MORE MISUNDERSTOOD THAN MURDEROUS, CHILDLIKE RATHER THAN MINDLESS...

AND I FEEL I SHOULD ADD, DR. RICHARDS, THAT AT ONE TIME THE HULK ***WAS*** A HERO--AN ***AVENGER***...ONE OF OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS IN FACT!

HEY, DOC--YOU GONNA LET THE ***AVENGERS*** CLAIM THE HULK AS ONE OF THEIR OWN? THE GREEN GUY'S A ***DEFENDER*** NOW!

I AM NO LONGER SURE, HELLCAT.

THE OLD HULK WAS A MEMBER OF OUR NON-TEAM.

THIS NEW HULK MAY NOT SO READILY FIT IN.

IT IS NOT AS THE ***MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS*** *THAT* ***DR. STEPHEN STRANGE*** *TAKES HIS PLACE ON THE PODIUM...*

...AS BRUCE BANNER'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, I ATTEST TO THE FACT THAT THE SAVAGE, ***HULK*** SIDE OF HIS PERSONA IS ERASED COMPLETELY!

FAREWELL, MY COLOSSAL COMRADE-IN-ARMS!

WHO'S THIS DR. STRANGE? I NEVER HEARD OF HIM!

I DID, BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS SOME KINDA OCCULT FREAK FROM GREENWICH VILLAGE!

8

THEN A HUSH FALLS OVER THE CROWD. ALL EYES STARE UP AT THE DAIS. IT IS THE GREEN GOLIATH'S OWN TURN TO SPEAK...

MY FRIENDS, MY FELLOW SUPER-POWERED BEINGS, AND ALL THE REST OF YOU, THE NORMAL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE...

I-I'VE FOUGHT SOME OF YOU, TERRIFIED SOME OF YOU... BUT I SWEAR TO YOU THAT, FROM THIS MOMENT ON, THE *NEW* HULK WILL DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO ATONE FOR ALL THE HARM THE *OLD* HULK CAUSED IN THE PAST!

YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE SORRY FOR, DOC! IT WAS THE WORLD THAT MADE THE HULK A MONSTER!

GOSH, I WISH *CAPTAIN MARVEL* HAD LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY!

ANOTHER FACE IN THE CROWD SHARES RICK JONES'S WISTFUL MOOD...

YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN SEE *JIM WILSON* DOWN HERE, DOC--

NO NUKE

--BUT YOUR ONETIME PARTNER IS HERE PULLIN' FOR YOU TO MAKE IT, LIKE YOU HELPED *ME* MAKE IT ONCE!

THERE IS A FANFARE THEN...

NEW YORK CITY HONOR

HULK

AWRIGHT, MOVE ASIDE--MAKE SOME ROOM UP THERE ON THE STAGE!

HOLY COW! WHATEVER THE THING'S CARRYING MUST WEIGH TONS!

TEN TONS, TA BE PRECISE! PURE ADAMANTIUM, THE TOUGHEST METAL KNOWN TA MAN--

--INTA ONE OUT-TA-SIGHT STATUE-- IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF-- OF EARTH'S NEWEST HERO. SCULPTED BY MY LADY-FRIEND, ALICIA MASTERS!

--SCULPTED WITH A VIBRANIUM BLADE DONATED BY BY THE KINGDOM OF WAKANDA--

TAA-DAAA!

IT'S... BEAUTIFUL!

SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAD ME SPEND THE LAST FEW DAYS AT THE BAXTER BUILDING, MS. MASTERS!

EVERYTIME I TOUCHED YOU, DR. BANNER, I SENSED THE NOBILITY IN YOUR SOUL!

BEN GRIMM, I'M SURE IT WAS YOU WHO INSPIRED THIS!

Y'KNOW, DOC, IT FEELS FUNNY TA BE SHAKIN' THE HAND OF ONE OF THE ONLY GUYS--

--WHO WUZ EVER ABLE TA CLOBBER MRS. GRIMM'S BLUE-EYED BOY, BENJY! PUT 'ER THERE, PAL!

10

AMIDST THE PLEASURE OF THE GREAT EVENT, THERE IS ALSO BUSINESS BEING CONDUCTED...

HUH

I DON'T LIKE THIS, FURY! IF SOME SUPER-VILLAIN SHOULD CHOOSE THIS MOMENT TO ATTACK THE HULK, THE WHOLE CITY WOULD SUFFER!

S.H.I.E.L.D.'S GOT A SECURITY CORDON 'ROUND THE BIG APPLE TIGHTER'N AN OLD MAID'S CORSET, ROSS!*

* S.H.I.E.L.D. -- SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION -- AL.

DUM DUM'S RIGHT, GENERAL -- AN' BESIDES, IF ALL THESE SUPER HEROES ASSEMBLED CAN'T HANDLE SOME SUPER THREAT... THEN THERE AIN'T NOBODY WHO CAN!

HOW'M I DOING?

JUST FINE, ED.

WHO GOES NEXT?

SOME VERY SPECIAL SUPER BEINGS!

WHO COULD BE MORE SPECIAL THAN US!

SUDDENLY...

HEY! THE AIR'S ON FIRE!

THIS YOUR IDEA, TORCH?

DON'T PANIC, EVERYONE! THE GLOW IS ONLY A SIDE-EFFECT OF...

...BLACK BOLT AND THE UNCANNY INHUMANS HAVING BEEN TELEPORTED FROM THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON TO EARTH BY THEIR DOG, LOCKJAW!

GOSH! THAT'S WHAT THE VISION MUST'VE MEANT WHEN HE SAID THERE'D BE FOLKS FROM "OTHER REALMS" HERE TODAY!

HULK DAY

HULK IS

YOU ARE CRYSTAL, THE ELEMENTAL INHUMAN, AREN'T YOU?

YES, WIFE OF QUICKSILVER. I SPEAK FOR BLACK BOLT-- LIEGE-LORD OF THE INHUMANS-- IN EXPRESSING HIS JOY AT YOUR CHANGED FORTUNE.

AS A SYMBOL OF YOUR REBIRTH AS A HERO, WE WISH YOU TO HAVE THESE FLOWERS--THE FIRST TO BE GROWN BY THE INHUMANS IN OUR NEW HOME ON THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.

BLACK BOLT LAYS HIS HAND UPON THE HULK...

...CONFERRING THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP EVERLASTING.'

YOU ARE HONORED INDEED, HULK!

AYE!

THEN, AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAME, THE INHUMAN'S FLEE EARTH'S POLLUTED ATMOSPHERE (WHICH ONCE NEARLY DECIMATED THEIR RACE) AND RETURN TO THEIR LUNAR HOME.

METHINKS YON FLOWERS BESTOWED UPON YOU WILL NEVER CEASE TO BLOOM, GREEN ONE!

THOR, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO INTRODUCE THE NEXT WELL-WISHERS, AREN'T YOU?

AYE, IN TRUTH I AM! THOU ART A MORTAL, HULK--

-- THE MIGHTIEST OF MORTALS, MAYHAPS--

-- BUT THOU HAST VISITED, IN THY TIME, REALMS BEYOND MOST MORTALS' KEN!

12

THE BEINGS OF ONE SUCH REALM -- REGARDED AS GODS IN ONE ERA OF EARTH'S MYTHOLOGY -- WOULD NOW HONOR THEE!

HE IS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER! A WHIRL OF HIS MAJESTIC URU MALLET...

...AND THE CROWD ASSEMBLED LEARNS WHY!

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING!

AND GALE FORCE WINDS?!

WH-WHAT'S HE DOING?!!

THOR IS OPENING A PORTAL IN TIME AND SPACE, A DIMENSIONAL DOOR BETWEEN OUR REALM...

...AND THE FAR-FABLED KINGDOM OF **ASGARD**, HOME OF THE NORSE GODS!

HAIL HULK!

ON THE GLORIOUS RAINBOW BRIDGE THEY STAND ASSEMBLED -- EVERY ONE A NAME OUT OF LEGEND!

YOU HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST SOME, BESIDE OTHERS, YET TO A BODY THEY DO HONOR YOU AS A WARRIOR AMONGST WARRIORS!

A WARRIOR? SOMEHOW I NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS THAT!

BUT I AM HONORED, THOR... AND OVERWHELMED!

13

HEY! NOW WHAT'S HAPPENING!

A LIGHT-- BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN!

FEAR NOT! 'TIS MERELY THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN, ADDING HIS SALUTE TO ALL THE REST.'

BUT I CAN'T SEE HIM!

'TIS NOT METE FOR MORTALS TO GAZE UPON MY SIRE'S VISAGE!

'TIS ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT HE DIDST HONOR THEE!

THERE ARE OTHERS, HULK, WHO WOULD EXPRESS THEIR PEACE WITH YOU!

PRINCE NAMOR, THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER!

AYE, SOVEREIGN OF FAIR ATLANTIS, THE KINGDOM 'NEATH THE SEVEN SEAS!

YOU AND I HAVE FOUGHT AS ENEMIES, HULK, AND AS ALLIES, BOTH FOR AND AGAINST MANKIND!

I DID COME TO KNOW YOU AS A MIGHTY FOE, AND A FAITHFUL FRIEND!

NOW LET ALL ATLANTIS SING THY PRAISES, ON THIS, YOUR DAY OF ACCEPTANCE!

MIGHTY LUNGS BLAST A CONVOLUTED CONCH HORN...

14

. . . AND A BLUE-SKINNED CONTINGENT OF ATLANTEANS RISES UP OUT OF NEW YORK'S EAST RIVER AND PROCEEDS TO THE PARK ALONG EAST 59TH STREET!

HAIL, HULK!!

I KNOW NOT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS, BUT I PRAY YOU FIND THE PEACE FOR WHICH YOU LONG HAVE SOUGHT!

I'LL TRY, NAMOR--AND WITH FRIENDS LIKE YOU TO LEAN ON, SOMEHOW, THIS TIME, I THINK I'LL FIND IT!

THE CONCH IS LEFT AS A TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP.

HULK OK!

THEN, FROM THE MANY NATIONS OF EARTH THEY STEP FORTH, HEROES ALL, BRINGING DIPLOMATIC GREETINGS TO THE HULK!

ALL WAKANDA REJOICES, FRIEND HULK!

THE BLACK PANTHER.

MAY ALLAH GUIDE, THEE GREEN ONE!

THE ARABIAN KNIGHT!

WE'VE GOT A LOT IN COMMON, YOU AND I, HULK!

FROM CANADA-- SASQUATCH AND THE REST OF ALPHA-FLIGHT!

THIS IS A NEW BEGINNING, WARRIOR!

FROM JAPAN--SUNFIRE!

IRELAND'S LUCKY LADY-- SHAMROCK!

'TIS EASY BEIN', GREEN!

VAYA CON DIOS, HULK!

AS A MONSTER, YOU TAUGHT ME ABOUT HUMANITY!

FROM ISRAEL-- SABRA!

FROM SOUTH AMERICA-- DEFENSOR!

OUR GOVERNMENT FORBADE US TO COME, HULK.

BUT, WHEN WE SAID WE WOULD COME WITH OR WITHOUT THEIR SANCTION, TO HONOR ONE WHO HAD HELPED SAVE OUR NATION...

...THEY RELENTED.

FROM ENGLAND-- CAPTAIN BRITAIN!

AND, FROM WEST GERMANY-- BLITZKRIEG!

ALL THE WORLD WISHES YOU WELL, DR. BANNER!

YOU'VE A LION'S HEART, HULK!

FROM THE SOVIET UNION, VANGUARD, DARKSTAR, AND MAJOR URSUS... THE SOVIET SUPER-SOLDIERS!

16

LOOK! THE SKY'S EXPLODING AGAIN!

LIKE FIREWORKS!

OR THE STARS COMING OUT IN DAYLIGHT!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!

'TIS THE *POWER COSMIC* MADE MANIFEST!

I CONGRATULATE YOU, DR. BANNER. WHEN LAST WE MET, WE WERE BOTH ACCURSED, YOU BY THE *MONSTER* WITH WHOM YOU SHARED YOUR EXISTENCE--

--AND I BY MY INABILITY TO ESCAPE THE CONFINES OF EARTH!

YOU HAVE OVERCOME YOUR CURSE!

I PRAY THE FORCES OF THE COSMOS ONE DAY ALLOW ME TO OVER-COME MINE!

YES, THOR-- ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF THE SPACE-SOARING *SILVER SURFER!*

17

THEN THE SKY-RIDER IS GONE, LEAVING IN HIS PLACE A SILVER STAR...

...OUT OF WHICH EMERGES--THE **WATCHER!**

GREETINGS, BRUCE BANNER!

I AM PLEDGED NEVER TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN--ONLY TO OBSERVE.

YET, I HAVE COME TO CHERISH THIS WORLD, AND I COULD NOT ALLOW AN OCCASION SO IMPORTANT TO IT TO PASS UNACKNOWLEDGED..

THUS, I DO NOT FEEL I BETRAY MY OATH TO DELIVER INTO YOUR HANDS.. THIS!

THE FACETS ON THE CRYSTAL SHIMMER AND SHIFT. FACES APPEAR AND VANISH. VOICES CALL AND GROW SILENT.

THE *REMEMBRANCE CRYSTAL* IS A GIFT FROM ALL THE RACES YOU HAVE AIDED, FROM ALL THE PLANETS YOU HAVE HELPED!

I...DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

THEN SAY NOTHING. MERELY CHERISH THE GIFT GIVEN YOU, MOST FORTUNATE OF MEN.

HE'S GONE! THE WATCHER'S GONE!

WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE JUST NOW?

I DUNNO--AND MY CAMERA JAMMED!

I COULDN'T SEE ANYONE BESIDES THE ASSEMBLED HEROES!

HEY, DOC! LOOK WHO'S COMING NOW!

THE *U.S. POSTAL SERVICE!*

GOT QUITE A FEW CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES HERE FOR YOU, MR. HULK!

YEP, WILLIE LUMPKIN'S DELIVERED A LOT OF IMPORTANT MAIL IN HIS DAY--BUT THIS HERE'S SOMETHIN' SPECIAL!

U.S. MAIL

I'LL SAY! LISTEN TO THIS ONE, DOC!

"DEAR HULK, I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE A MONSTER! LOVE, CORRINA MANTLO"

AND THIS--"DEAR HULK, I HOPE YOU WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY, LOVE, RACHEL MILGROM."

THE WHOLE WORLD'S ROOTIN' FOR YA, GREEN FELLA!

19

YES. FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE...

...THE WORLD IS ***BESIDE*** ME INSTEAD OF ***AGAINST*** ME!

THE ONLY WORDS I CAN FIND TO EXPRESS THE WAY I FEEL RIGHT NOW ARE...

THANK YOU.

FROM A BALCONY ABOVE THE CHEERING THRONG, A STRANGE, BIRDLIKE FEMALE GAZES DOWN.

SHE IS BEREET, TECHNO-ARTIST FROM THE PLANET KRYLOR.

THOUGH SHE REJOICES FOR THE HULK, SHE WHO HAS CHRONICLED HIS HISTORY FROM AFAR...

*...IS ALSO SORELY **TROUBLED**, AND KNOWS NOT HOW TO EXPRESS HER UNEASE.*

THE SPACECRAFT THAT ATTACKED THE HULK AND THE ASSEMBLED HEROES OVER THE WHITE HOUSE WERE ***KRYLORIAN*** IN DESIGN!

BUT THEY SHOULD ***NOT*** HAVE EXISTED, FOR KRYLOR POSSESSES ***NO*** FLEET SAVE THE ONE I CONCEPTUALIZED IN ONE OF MY ***HULK MOVIES!***

WHO, THEN, KNEW ENOUGH OF MY CONCEPT TO STEAL IT--

--AND USE IT TO MAKE OF THE HULK... A ***HERO?***

20

WHO INDEED?

DOES ALL GO ACCORDING TO PLAN, MASTER?

YES, JACKDAW! DESPITE YOUR BLUNDER AT GAMMA BASE* NO ONE SUSPECTS THE LE-THAL *LEADER*--

--OF HAVING MANIPULATED EVENTS FROM AFAR TO MAKE THE HULK A HERO TO THE WORLD, THUS ENGINEERING HIS ACCEPTANCE!

NOR SHALL THE HULK HIMSELF LEARN THE TRUTH OF THINGS, UNTIL I HAVE TESTED HIM TO MY SATISFACTION!

UNAWARE THAT THE ENTIRE CEREMONY IS BEING SINISTERLY SURVEYED FROM ORBIT, THE SUPER HEROES ASSEMBLED PREPARE TO WRAP THINGS UP.

TODAY YOU HAVE SEEN THE ACCEPTANCE BY A WARM-HEARTED WORLD OF A MAN WHO HERETOFORE HAD BEEN HARRIED, HUNTED AND HOUNDED!

A MAN WHO WAS ONCE A *MONSTER!* A MAN WHO TRIUMPHED OVER HIS DIS-ABILITY, IF I MAY CALL IT THAT--

--TO TAKE HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE ON THIS PODIUM OF POWER!

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, THIS DAY I GIVE YOU DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER... THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

SCANNING THE CROWD, EMERALD EYES SUDDENLY SPY A FAMILIAR FACE.

BETTY!

BETTY ROSS! THE WOMAN BRUCE BANNER LOVES!

THE WOMAN WITHOUT WHOM, ALL OF THIS SEEMS SOMEHOW MEANINGLESS!

THOUGH HE CANNOT HEAR HER, SHE SEEMS TO BE WISHING HIM LUCK.

THEN SHE VANISHES INTO THE CROWD AND OUT OF HIS LIFE AGAIN...

... A LIFE SHE HAS REFUSED TO SHARE SO LONG AS BRUCE BANNER AND THE HULK ARE ONE.

BETTY.

WELL, HULK--

--IT LOOKS AS IF YOUR LONELY DAYS ARE OVER!

NEXT MONTH: ALONE IN A CROWD!

SPECIAL BONUS: *Marvel Fanfare* #7 (March 1983)

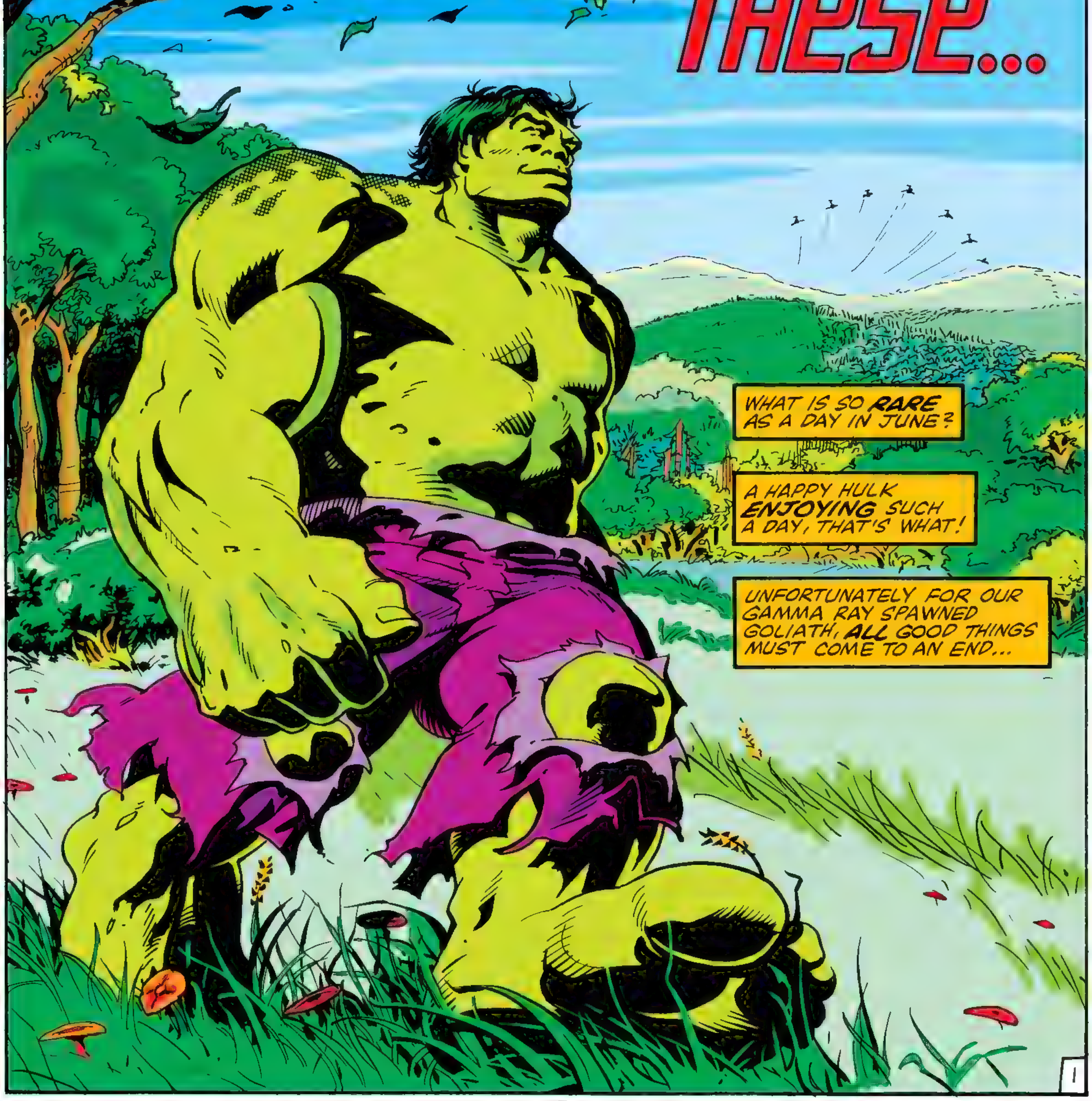
EDITORI-AL
WELCOME.
I'VE GOTTEN SOME COMPLAINTS RECENTLY ABOUT MY APPEARANCE IN THIS STRIP. MOSTLY THEY CONCERN MY FACIAL HAIR.
THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, DURING THE COLD MONTHS, I USUALLY GROW A BEARD.
PEOPLE AROUND THE MARVEL OFFICES WONDERED WHY THIS WASN'T REFLECTED IN MY EDITORI-AL DRAWINGS.
SO, OKAY! HERE YOU HAVE IT! THROUGH THE MAGIC OF COMICS: TIME LAPSE HAIR GROWTH.
IF ONLY IT WAS THIS EASY TO GROW IT ON MY HEAD!
'COURSE, WHEN SPRING HIT, I TRIMMED THE SUCKER DOWN INTO THIS VAN DYKE!
AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THAT GOES, TOO! SO, NOW YOU'VE SEEN ME IN ALL MY INCARNATIONS.
WHO KNOWS! MAYBE ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL EVEN SHAVE THE MUSTACHE... IF I FEEL LIKE I NEED A CHANGE OF FACE!
WATCH THIS SPACE

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

STEVEN GRANT / WRITER | JOE BARNEY / PENCILER | GEORGE FREEMAN / INKER | JIM NOVAK / LETTERER | PETRA GOLDBERG / COLORIST | ALLEN MILGROM / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...


WHAT IS SO RARE AS A DAY IN JUNE?
A HAPPY HULK ENJOYING SUCH A DAY, THAT'S WHAT!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR OUR GAMMA RAY SPAWNED GOLIATH, ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END...
1

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE EVENTS IN RECENT ISSUES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK GRANTED HIM BRUCE BANNER'S INTELLIGENCE--EDITORI-AL.

Art & Color Restoration: Michael Kelleher & Kellustration

...INCLUDING, POSSIBLY, THE *INCREDIBLE HULK* HIMSELF!

3:7.23.55

TARGET *SIGHTED*, FLIGHT LEADER! *OVER!*

WHAT IS MAKING *NOISE?* HULK DOESN'T *LIKE* IT!

BAH! PLANES! PLANES ALWAYS HUNT HULK!

GOOD WORK, RED FLIGHT! I'LL NOTIFY GROUND FORCES OF THE MONSTER'S *POSITION!*

CAPTAIN! HE'S *SPOTTED* US!

HULK HASN'T *HURT* ANYONE--BUT LITTLE MEN KEEP *FOLLOWING* HIM! HULK IS *TIRED* OF IT!

LEAVE HULK ALONE!

IS HE TRYING TO GET AWAY?

NEGATIVE, FLIGHT LEADER! HE'S TOO BUSY TEARING UP *TREES*!

HULK WAS *HAPPY*-- BUT PUNY HUMANS *SPOILED* IT! HUMANS *ALWAYS* SPOIL IT WITH THEIR TANKS AND PLANES AND GUNS!

HOLD IT A MINUTE! THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE RANDOM DESTRUCTION TO *ME*! THE MONSTERS *UP* TO SOMETHING!

LET ME ADJUST MY MONITOR FOR A *CLOSER* LOOK...

OH MY SWEET--

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

3

THWAM!

FLIGHT LEADER! DO YOU READ ME?!

I'M ALL RIGHT--AND *BAILING OUT!* RETURN TO BASE BEFORE THAT MONSTER DOWNS THE *REST* OF YOU!

WEIRD! IT LOOKED LIKE THE HULK CAREFULLY *AIMED* THAT MAKESHIFT SPEAR AT MY WING-- NOT AT THE COCKPIT!

AS IF... HE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT *ME* --WHICH WOULD MEAN HE MAY *NOT* BE THE BRUTE WE'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED HIM TO BE...

KA-BOOM!

HA! HULK SCARED PLANES AWAY!

BUT MEN IN PLANES WILL TELL *OTHER* MEN WHERE HULK IS--AND *THEY* WILL COME FOR HIM!

4

HULK WILL GO SOMEWHERE ELSE-- WHERE HE CAN BE *ALONE* AGAIN!

THE EARTH SHUDDERS AS SCIENTIST BRUCE BANNER'S AWESOME ALTER-EGO BOUNDS MIGHTILY THROUGH THE COLO-RADO MOUNTAINS--UNWITTINGLY MOVING TOWARD A SMALL CIRCUS, SOME 150 MILES TO THE WEST...

FREAKS

LOOK, BOSS... WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN JAKE WITH US SINCE YOU MADE THE OLD OWNERS TAKE A HIKE...

... BUT, WELL, THE PERFORMERS ELECTED ME TO *TELL* YOU...

WHAT, SIMP?

MANAGER

THE *FREAK* IN CENTER TENT! HE *DON'T* PULL HIS WEIGHT-- HE DON'T DO *NOTHING!*

WE'RE *SICK* OF IT! GET *RID* OF HIM --OR WE *WALK!*

FREAK, HUH?

THAT'S PRETTY *FUNNY*, BOZO!

BETTER WATCH WATCHA *SAY* ABOUT FREAKS--

--WHEN YER TALKIN' TO *THE BLOB!*

TELL 'EM *THIS!* THAT "FREAK" IS MY *BEST FRIEND!*

ANYONE WHO DON'T LIKE 'IM CAN GET *OUT*-- RIGHT *NOW!*

IF THEY CAN STILL WALK WHEN I GET DONE WITH 'EM!

GOT ME?!

Y-YESSIREE, BOSS!

LOUSY CREEPS! THEY'RE *ALL* FREAKS... ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...

...BUT THEY HATE US *MUTANTS* JUST LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE!

FOOD READY, CHARLIE?

YOU BET, BOSS!

LET 'EM HATE US! *NOBODY* MATTERS ANYMORE-- 'CEPT ME AN' *HIM!*

CHOW TIME, PAL!

TOO BAD I AIN'T BRINGIN' YOU THE HEADS O' THOSE CRUMMY HEROES, *THE X-MEN,* INSTEAD O' GRUB!

6

WHY? *THEY* AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR MY POWER GOING HAYWIRE! WHY--THE FORCE OF IT EVEN KEEPS THIS TENT UP WITHOUT ANY OTHER SUPPORT!

TAKE THE TRAY *AWAY*--AND PUT ME OUT OF MY *MISERY!* LET ME STARVE, FRED!

DON'T *CALL* ME THAT! *FRED J. DUKES* IS A NAME FOR A HUMAN! THEY CALL ME *THE BLOB* NOW--

--JUST LIKE THEY CALL YOU *UNUS, THE UNTOUCHABLE!*

AN' SINCE YER BODY'S NATURAL *FORCE FIELD* IS GROWIN' WITHOUT YER SAY-SO--PUSHIN' AWAY ANYTHING THAT AIN'T ROOTED TO THE GROUND --I SAID I'D TAKE *CARE* O' YOU!

LUCKY FER YOU, I'M ONE GUY WHO CAN'T BE BUDGED BY *ANYTHING!*

I CAN SLOG THROUGH YER FIELD--STEP BY STEP...

WHAT'S THE POINT? I'M HELPLESS! I CAN BARELY KEEP FROM FORCING AWAY ALL THE *AIR* AROUND ME!

YER MY *PAL!* THAT'S *ALL* THE REASON I NEED!

BUT I'M LIKE A BABY! I CAN'T EVEN *FEED* MYSELF! MY HANDS *REPEL* ANY FOOD I REACH FOR!

WE'LL GO TA *NEW YORK*, I PROMISE! I'LL *FORCE* ONE O' THEM SUPER-TYPES TA CURE YOU!

'TILL THEN, YOU GOTTA STAY ALIVE, 'CAUSE YER *ALL* I GOT! SO *EAT!*

I'LL MAKE THIS UP TO YOU, BUDDY! I *SWEAR!*

7

MEANWHILE, IN THE NEARBY TOWN OF JASPER...

WHOOM!

HULK IS HUNGRY!

JASPER DRUG

RADA'S MEN'S WEAR

UGH! PEOPLE ARE EATING FUNNY RED CIRCLES! THEY DON'T LOOK GOOD--AND PEOPLE WOULD SCREAM AT HULK ANYWAY!

'S PIZZA

NORTHERN STATE

23RD ANNUA

MMMM! HULK SMELLS SOMETHING GOOD!

MAYBE LITTLE MAN WILL FEED HULK...

GET YER RED-HOTS, HERE!

PARK

HOT DOG!

YUM-YUM EEOUMUP

8

MAN BITES DOG, THAT'S OUR MOTTO!

RED STICKS LOOK *GOOD*, LITTLE MAN!

HUH?! THEY'RE CALLED *HOT DOGS*, YA UNAMER-ICAN--

--EEP!

HEY, RUBE!

YUM! HULK *LIKES* HOT DOGS!

WHAT'S ALL THE *NOISE* FOR, YOU MAROON!

DOESN'T MATTER *WHO* IT IS--'CAUSE *NO ONE'S* ALLOWED ON THE MIDWAY AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!

TH-THERE! IT'S--IT'S--IT'S...

GET 'IM!

HEY! THIS RUBE'S GOT *GREEN* SKIN!

BONK

GREEN SKIN? *UH-OH!*

YEOW!

GO AWAY! HULK IS *EATING!*

TAP!

9

WHAT THE HECK IS GOIN' ON HERE?!

YOU! RUNT! WHADDAYA THINK YER DOIN'? LEAVE MY PEOPLE ALONE!

MEN ATTACKED HULK, FAT MAN!

DON'T CALL ME FAT, GREENIE!

BLOW OR I'LL THROW YOU OUT--AN' THE BLOB'S THE GUY WHO CAN DO IT!

WHAT IS HE?

AMAZING INCREDI

THE 8L

HUH? HULK REMEMBERS YOU!

FAT MAN THINKS HE CAN PUSH HULK AROUND... THINKS HE'S STRONGER THAN HULK! BUT HULK WILL SHOW HIM!

WHUMPH!

HULK IS STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!

HA!

10

YOU REALLY THINK YER *SOMETHIN'!*

LET *GO* OF HULK'S ARM OR--

SPRONG!

SURE, RUNT! *ANYTHING* YOU SAY!

AARGH!

FAT MAN TRIES TO MAKE *FUN* OF HULK -- BUT HULK WILL *SMASH* HIM!

YEAH? PUT YER MONEY WHERE YER *MOUTH* IS, RUBE!

ALMOST *NOTHIN'* CAN HURT ME!

BAM! BAM! BAM!

AN' WHEN I *ROOT* MYSELF TO THE GROUND, I CAN'T BE *BUDGED!*

GET GOOD AN' MAD, RUNT... 'CAUSE WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH...

...I'M GONNA *BASH* YER STUPID BRAINS IN!

HULK IS *ALREADY* MAD, FAT MAN!

HOLY--!

AND THE *MADDER* HULK GETS, THE *STRONGER* HE GETS!

RRIP!

WHY ISN'T FAT MAN LAUGHING *NOW*?

UNH--CAN'T WE *TALK* ABOUT THIS, GREENIE?

THIS IS *ALL* HULK HAS TO SAY!

VOM!

NOOOO! NOT AT THE *TENT*! NOT AT THE--

RRRAM!

FRED!

WH-WHAT COULD POSSIBLY DO THAT TO *HIM*?!

UH-OH! HE'S FLYING RIGHT *AT* ME! AND HE'S NOT--

12

--ANCHORED!

HUH! FAT MAN IS COMING BACK?!

OH, NO!

POW

GET UP, FAT MAN, OR HULK WILL--

OR NOTHING, YOU GREEN APE! LET MY FRIEND GO, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

EVEN YOU CAN'T STAND AGAINST THE IRRESISTIBLE POWER OF UNUS, THE UNTOUCHABLE!

13

NO ONE TELLS HULK WHAT TO DO!

NO ONE!

WHAMP!

ARRRR!

BUT IF YOU'VE HURT THE BLOB...

BAH! EVEN AIR FIGHTS, HULK NOW!

LET HULK THROUGH, AIR!

WAM WAM

WELCOME TO MY FORCE-FIELD, HULK!

SOMEDAY SOON, I'M SURE IT WILL BE THE DEATH OF ME!

...IT WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU A LOT SOONER!

14

SURPRISE, RUNT!

UNUS IS AN *IRRESISTIBLE* FORCE--I'M AN *IMMOVABLE* OBJECT!

BETWEEN US, WE'LL *CRUSH* YOU!

WHAT?! HE MOVED MY WHOLE FIELD *BACKWARD!*

BUT... NO ONE IS *THAT* STRONG!

THE HULK IS!

NO! I WASN'T EXPECTIN' 'IM TO MOVE *FOR-WARD!*

HE GOT ME OFF BALANCE AGAIN!

HELLLP!

RRAAAR!

HA

15

BAH! NOW FAT MAN AND HIS FRIEND KNOW HULK IS STRONGEST!

THIS PLACE IS STUPID! HULK WANTS TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!

NOT... SO... FAST!

YOU TOOK YER BEST SHOT-- BUT I'M STILL COMIN' ATCHA!

NOTHIN' PERSONAL, BUT I'VE BEEN STOPPED TOO MANY TIMES BY YOU SUPER-CLOWNS! THIS TIME YER GONNA HAFTA PUT ME DOWN FER THE COUNT--

--OR I'M GONNA DO IT TO YOU! I WON'T GET BEAT AGAIN!

FAT MAN IS CRAZY!

FRED?

OH, NO! THE HULK HAS FRED! I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER THEM!

BUT... EVEN THAT SHORT FIGHT, AND THE POWER I EXERTED, EXPANDED MY FORCE FIELD--I CAN FEEL IT! EVERY STEP I TAKE WILL PUT IT FURTHER OUT OF CONTROL!

STILL, THE BLOB IS THE ONLY REAL FRIEND I'VE HAD SINCE I GOT THIS STINKING POWER!

I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM-- NO MATTER WHAT THE COST TO ME!

HOLD ON, FRED-- I'M COMING!

16

MEANWHILE, IN A CANYON TO THE SOUTHWEST...

GO AWAY, FAT MAN!

NOT A CHANCE! I'M ALONG FOR THE *RIDE*-- UNTIL I CAN CASH IN YOUR TICKET!

HERE'S A WRESTLIN' TRICK I LEARNED-- BY ADDIN' MY *WEIGHT* TO YOURS, I CAN PUT YOU ON THE MAT!

I MAY *LOOK* LIKE A TUB O' LARD, BUT I GOT REAL *MUSCLE* IN HERE!

AN' I'M BETTIN' YOU CAN DISH IT OUT-- BUT YOU CAN'T *TAKE* IT!

THOOM!

YER STILL *MOVIN'*?

I'LL TAKE CARE O' *THAT*!

WAP!

WHAM

FALL, BLAST YOU!

FALL!

SKOM

BOM

FALL!

IS FAT MAN *DONE*?

17

KRUNCH

FAT MAN WOULD NOT *DO* WHAT HULK WANTED!

NO! FAT MAN HAD TO MAKE HULK *ANGRY!*

DID YOU SAY *ANGRY*, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND *GEEK?*

I'LL SHOW YOU ANGRY!

HAH! I *KNEW* I COULD KNOCK YOU DOWN! IF ONLY THE *RUBES* COULD SEE THIS!

FAT MAN THINKS THIS IS A *GAME!*

HULK IS *NOT* PLAYING GAMES!

FAT MAN IS *STRONG* --BUT HULK IS *HULK!*

AND HULK--

--IS THE STRONGEST ONE--

18

--THERE IS!
WHUMP
YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YOU? ALL I GOTTA DO IS BRACE MY STOMACH MUSCLES--AN' NO BLOW'LL AFFECT ME!
THEN ALL I GOTTA DO IS FLEX 'EM OUT--
--AN'--
--AN'--
owwww!
VOOOM!
PRETTY... SMART! DIDN'T... THINK... YER ARM'D BE... STRONGER... THAN MY... STOMACH...
...USED... M'OWN STRENGTH... AGAINST ...ME...
...BUT... THAT... DON'T... STOP... THE... BLOB...
...YOU RUNNNNNNNT!
19

DON'T *TOUCH* HIM, MONSTER!

HUH? WHY IS *AIR* MOVING?

I'M COMING FOR MY *FRIEND*, MONSTER--AND FOR *YOU!*

EVEN THE *AIR* IS MOVING AWAY FROM ME NOW, SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO *LIVE!* BUT I'M TAKING YOU *WITH* ME, HULK--

--AND *NOTHING* WILL STOP ME!

NOTHING!

ARRGH!

ZO

DON'T *RESIST* ME, HULK! I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING A MONSTER, HAVING NO FRIENDS--AND WE'RE BOTH *BETTER OFF* THIS WAY!

BAH! FAT MAN'S FRIEND TRIES TO BEAT HULK WITH *WORDS!*

HULK CAN FEEL YOUR POWER--AND WHAT HULK CAN *FEEL*...

WHOOM!

HULK CAN SMASH!

KA-

THE AWESOME BLOW SENDS PARTICLES RIPPLING BACK ALONG LINES OF FORCE, A CHAIN REACTION THAT TURNS THE VERY AIR DARK AND ACRID...

21

AND WHEN THE AIR CLEARS...

FAT MAN AND HIS FRIEND HAVE *QUIT!* *GOOD!*

BEING FRIENDS DIDN'T *HELP* THEM! HULK DIDN'T *NEED* FRIENDS TO WIN!

HULK DOESN'T NEED *FRIENDS!*

HE LEAVES.

OHHHHH...

*THE MAN-MONSTER'S BELLICOSE WORDS SOUND FALSE, EVEN TO **HIMSELF**, AND SO HE DOES THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO...*

HEY! I CAN BREATHE!

MY *FORCE FIELD!* IT'S *GONE!*

DID YOU HEAR ME, FRED? THE HULK'S PUNCH MUST HAVE DISPERSED MY--

FRED?

OH, FRED!

COME ON, BUDDY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU-- LIKE YOU DID FOR ME!

WE'RE PALS, SEE-- AND *EVERYTHING* WILL BE JUST FINE!

THE TWO MUTANTS STAGGER AWAY--DEFEATED--BUT IN POSSESSION OF SOMETHING FAR MORE PRECIOUS THAN THE HULK'S HOLLOW VICTORY!

THEY HAVE FRIEND-SHIP!

AND NEAR UNUS'S FEET, THE TINIEST OF PEBBLES BEGINS TO ROLL...

THE... END?

March 1982 Marvel house ad
by Al Milgrom

AND NOW, A WORD FROM THE INCREDIBLE HULK ON BEHALF OF MARVEL COMICS...

POWER!

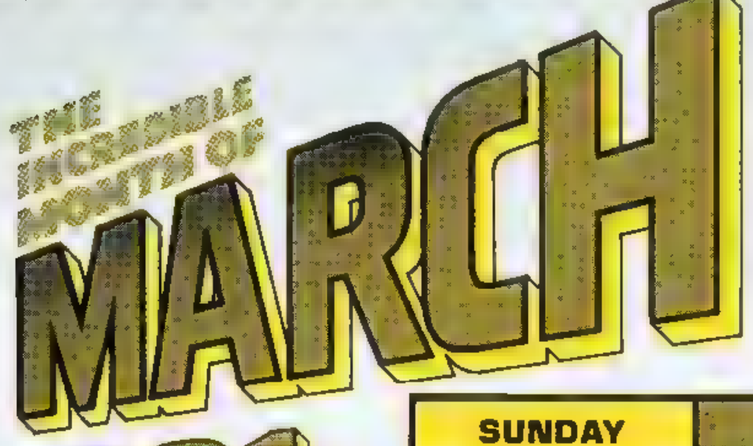
POWER IS THE NAME OF THE GAME-- AND YOU'LL NEVER SEE IT *ANYWHERE* THE WAY YOU SEE IT EVERY MONTH IN

MARVEL COMICS

ON SALE EVERYWHERE!

Marvel Comics' 20th Anniversary Calendar 1981 March art
by Michael Golden

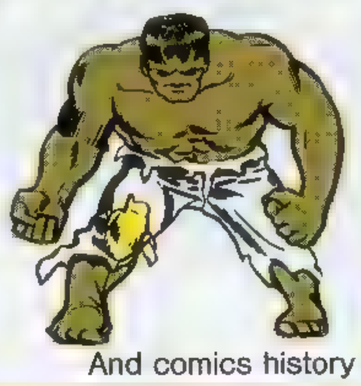
Marvel Comics' 20th Anniversary Calendar 1981 March page
by Roger Stern



Dr. Banner . . .

. . . belted by Gamma Rays . . .

. . . turned into the **Hulk!**



And comics history was made!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Robert Bruce Banner the man inside the monster!	**2**	**3** Betty Ross . . . she loved the man within!	**4** Thunderbolt Ross . . . he hunted the Hulk! What's a father to do?	**5** Rick Jones the Hulk's first friend! I'll stick by ya, big guy!	**6** **7** Hulk joins the Avengers	
8 but not for long! Don't call me, I'll call you!	**9** Enter: Glenn Talbot! H ss!	**10**	**11** Lo, the Leader leads! If only someone would fo low!	**12** It's the awesome **Abomination!** Gamma-lamma-ding-dong!	**13**	**14** Muckin' around with the **Glob!**
15 The Hulk's second sidekick—Jim Wilson! What it is, Bro!	**16** **Jarella**—the woman who loved the Hulk!	**17** Happy St. Patrick's Day! Faith & Begorrah!	**18**	**19** **Doc Samson**—not just another pretty face!	**20** **21** C'mere, you! The Valkyrie gets tough!	
22 The crawling unknown! What is this mess?	**23**	**24** The late, great Crackajack Jackson! I bought Hulk his first can o' beans!	**25** Gloriosky! It's **Glorian!** Somewhere over the rainbow...	**26** Death claims the Hulk's love! Jarella!	**27** His name is **Dr. Druid!** And I don't make housecalls!	**28** Big Monster On Campus! Rah-rah!
29 The Hulk on TV! Don't touch that dial!	**30** The Hulk's biographer, Fred Sloan! Remember those fabulous '60 s?	**31** This month isn't big enough for Hulk! BASH!	Nothing can stop the Hulk! Hulk is the strongest one there is!			

When Marvel increased its story page count from 17 to 22 pages per issue, the Hulk reprint title *Marvel Super-Heroes* was rounded out with new pinups.

SPECIAL BULLPEN BONUS!
AS AN EXTRA-SPECIAL TREAT, WE'VE PREVAILED UPON ARTIST HERB TRIMPE TO SHOW US HOW HE GETS THAT DYNAMIC LOOK TO HIS HULK-ART!
CADENCE
CALL HARVEY BEFORE NOON
JOB DEADLINE 6/12/80
DUE DATE
DRAWING FOR PROFIT
THE POOKY LIVES
ANATOMY
THE INVISIBLE MAN
BUZZ OFF
HOW TO DRAW COMICS
CADENCE
I DRAW FROM LIFE!

Facing and below: *Marvel Super-Heroes* #97 (May 1981) and *Marvel Super-Heroes* #98 (June 1981) Hulk pinups | Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Herb Trimpe

LOOK! UP IN THE SKIES! IT'S A HURTLING ASTEROID! IT'S A FLYING MACK TRUCK! NO, IT'S THE ASTOUNDING...
CAPTAIN HULK?!
ANOTHER HERB TRIMPE FLIGHT OF FANCY!

Marvel Super-Heroes #98 (June 1981) Hulk pinup
Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Herb Trimpe

FEED
WHO'S THIS? THE TWO-GREEN KID?! NOPE, IT'S ONLY--ONLY?--THE EVER-INCREDIBLE HULK, MIXING IT UP WITH SOME OLD WEST OWLHOOTS... DEVILISHLY DEPICTED BY HOPALONG HERB TRIMPE!

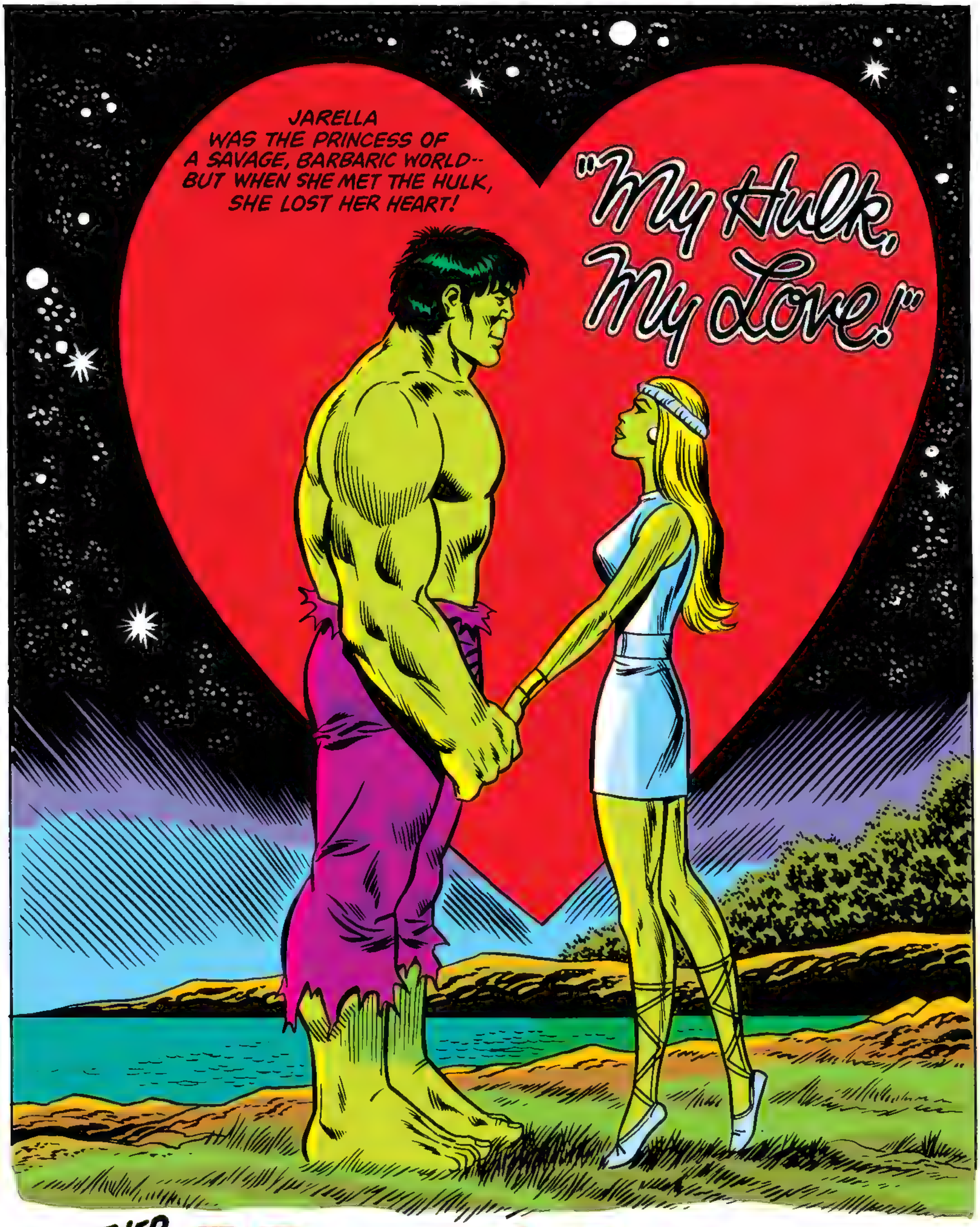
Marvel Super-Heroes #99 (July 1981) Hulk pinup
Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Herb Trimpe

WHA-..?WHO?
NO, IT'S NOT SGT. HULK AND HIS HOWLING WHATCHAMACA'LLITS! IT'S JUST HERB TRIMPE INDULGING IN YET ANOTHER FLIGHT OF FANCY... LIKE, WHAT IF THE HULK FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR TWO!

Marvel Super-Heroes #101 (September 1981) Hulk pinup
Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Herb Trimpe

LONG AGO, IN A COMICBOOK FAR, FAR AWAY, BRUCE SKYHULKER BATTLED THE FORCES OF THE DREAD HULKBUSTER DROIDS. WELL... NOT REALLY! BUT IF HE HAD, YOU MIGHT BE READING THE ADVENTURES OF...
STAR HULK
IMAGINEERED BY HERB TRIMPE

Marvel Super-Heroes #102 (October 1981) Hulk pinup
Writer: Roger Stern | Penciler: Herb Trimpe | Inker: Jack Abel


JARELLA WAS THE PRINCESS OF A SAVAGE, BARBARIC WORLD-- BUT WHEN SHE MET THE HULK, SHE LOST HER HEART!
"My Hulk, My Love!"
ANOTHER TRUE... Marvel-Age ROMANCE

Marvel Super-Heroes #103 (November 1981) Hulk/Merrie Melodies parody
Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Terry Austin

HEY ROG! I HEARD THAT MARVEL IS GETTING INTO ANIMATION! WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE STARRED OUR CHARACTERS IN SOME OLD-STYLE CARTOONS?

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, TERRY! CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF THE HULK WERE A FUNNY ANIMAL!

F-F-F-FACE FRONT, FOLKS!

TERRY AUSTIN
NUTSO ARTIST AND ENCHILADA ENTHUSIAST!

ROGER STERN
WACKO WRITER AND WHOOPIE CUSHION TESTER!

MARVEL MELODIES

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

HULK-HARE

HEH HEH HEH

BE VEWY VEWY QUIET... I'M HUNTING DA HULK!

ACME HULK BUSTER

WHAT'CHA GONNA DO TO 'IM, HULK? HUH? HUH?

ACME HULK FOOTPRINT KIT

WHAT A STUPID IDEA, YOU BOZOS!

BAH!

HUMBUG!

FEH!

GRRR!

ACME

JACK ABEL
THE INFAMOUS EDITOR OF THIS BOOK AND STAFF CURMUDGEON!

'NUFF SAID!

Marvel Super-Heroes #103 (November 1981) Hulk/Archie parody
Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Terry Austin

GOSH, OUR "ABEL-EDITOR" DIDN'T CARE TOO MUCH FOR THAT LAST PIN-UP IDEA! IT'S GONNA TAKE US A FEW WEEKS TO MEND! BUT YA SHOULDA SEEN WHA' HOPPEN TO HIM!

KA-BOOM!

YEAH! BUT WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THESE BANDAGES TO COME OFF, LET'S DROP BY RICH MR. ROSS' LODGE AND CHECK UP ON BETTY AND JARELLICA'S FAVORITE GREEN FRESHMAN!

TERRY ·austin· FORMER ARTIST AND CURRENT OUTPATIENT.

ROGER ·STERN· ONE TIME WRITER NOW IN TRACTION.

Hulkie

AMERICA'S TYPICALLY INCREDIBLE TEEN-AGER!

REALLY, HULKIEKINS! MOST BOYS BRING FLOWERS TO A DATE!

☆◎!!

GRRRR! GRR!

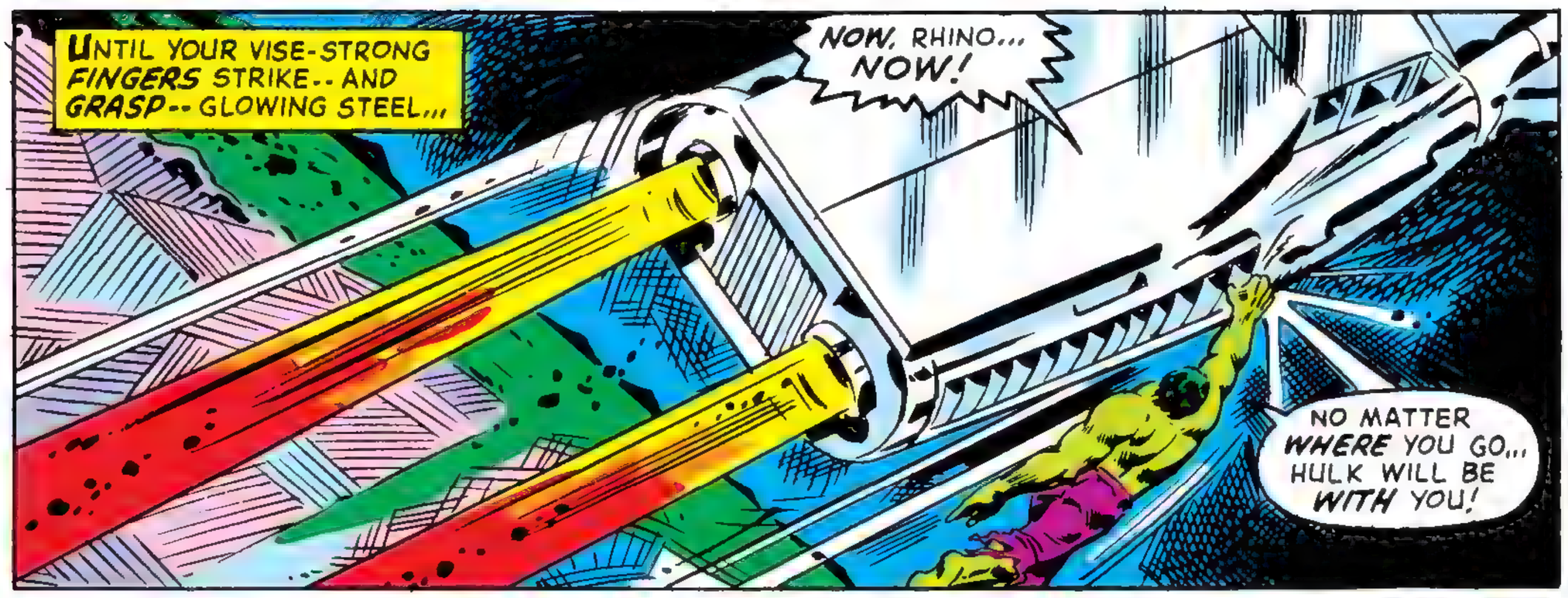
Marvel Super-Heroes #104 (December 1981) Hulk/Two-Gun Kid parody
Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Terry Austin

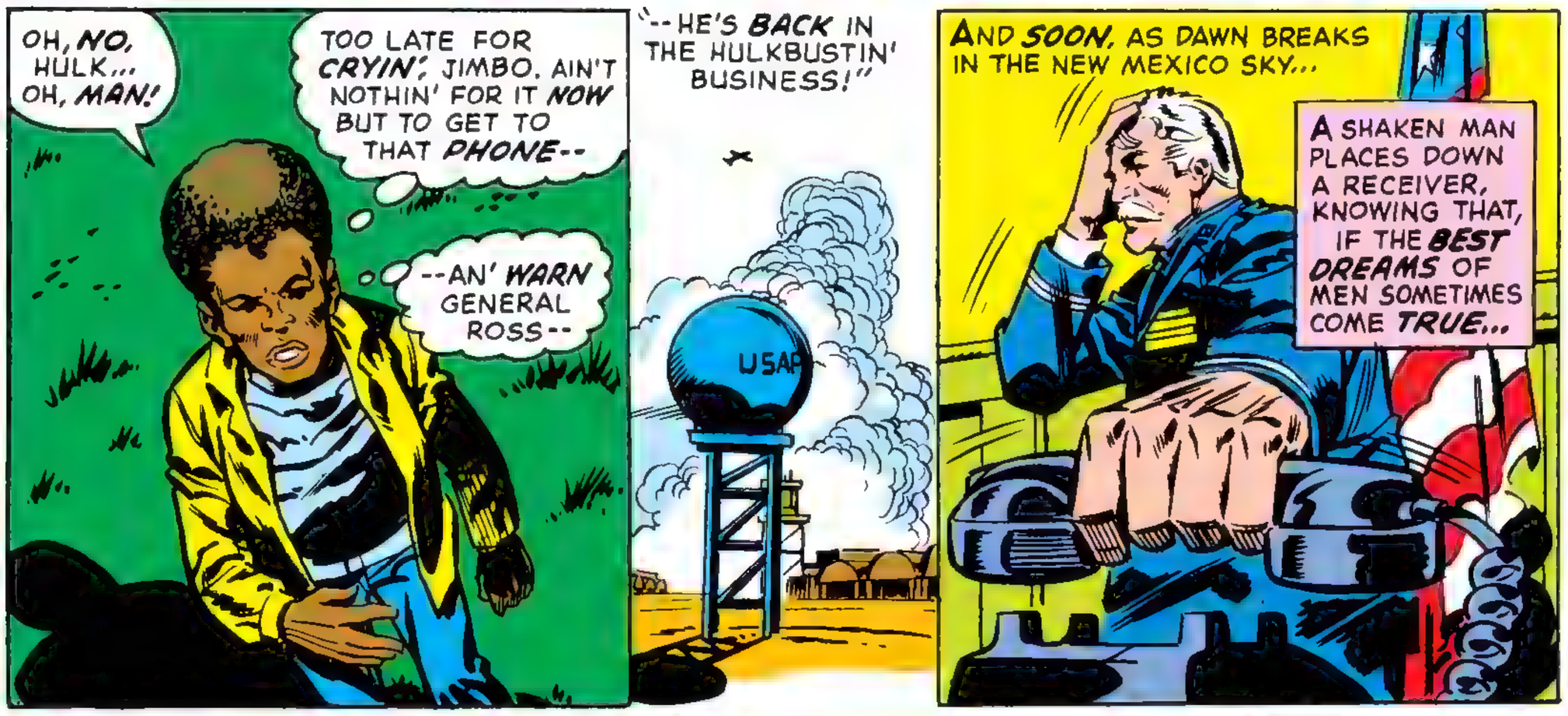
UH, HI!
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JIM SHOOTER HERE!
AND I'M PLEASED AS PUNCH TO INTRODUCE ANOTHER OF TERRY AUSTIN AND ROGER STERN'S HILARIOUS HULK TAKE-OFFS! WHEN THEY SET OUT TO DO THE HULK AS A WESTERN GUNFIGHTER, I TOLD 'EM IT HAD BEEN DONE IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE... BUT THIS ENTHUSIASTIC PAIR WOULDN'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER! SO... WELL... HERE IT IS!
TWO-GUN HULK
C'MON, FELLAS...
I DID YOUR INTRODUCTION... NOW WILL YOU UNTIE ME?
DESTINED TO BE-COME AMERICA'S GREENEST HERO!
CUT THAT, OUT! YUH MANGY GREEN VARMINT!
CAN EVEN TWO-GUN SURVIVE.... "THE HULK-BUSTIN' POSSE OF SHERIFF BLUNDERBUSS ROSS!"

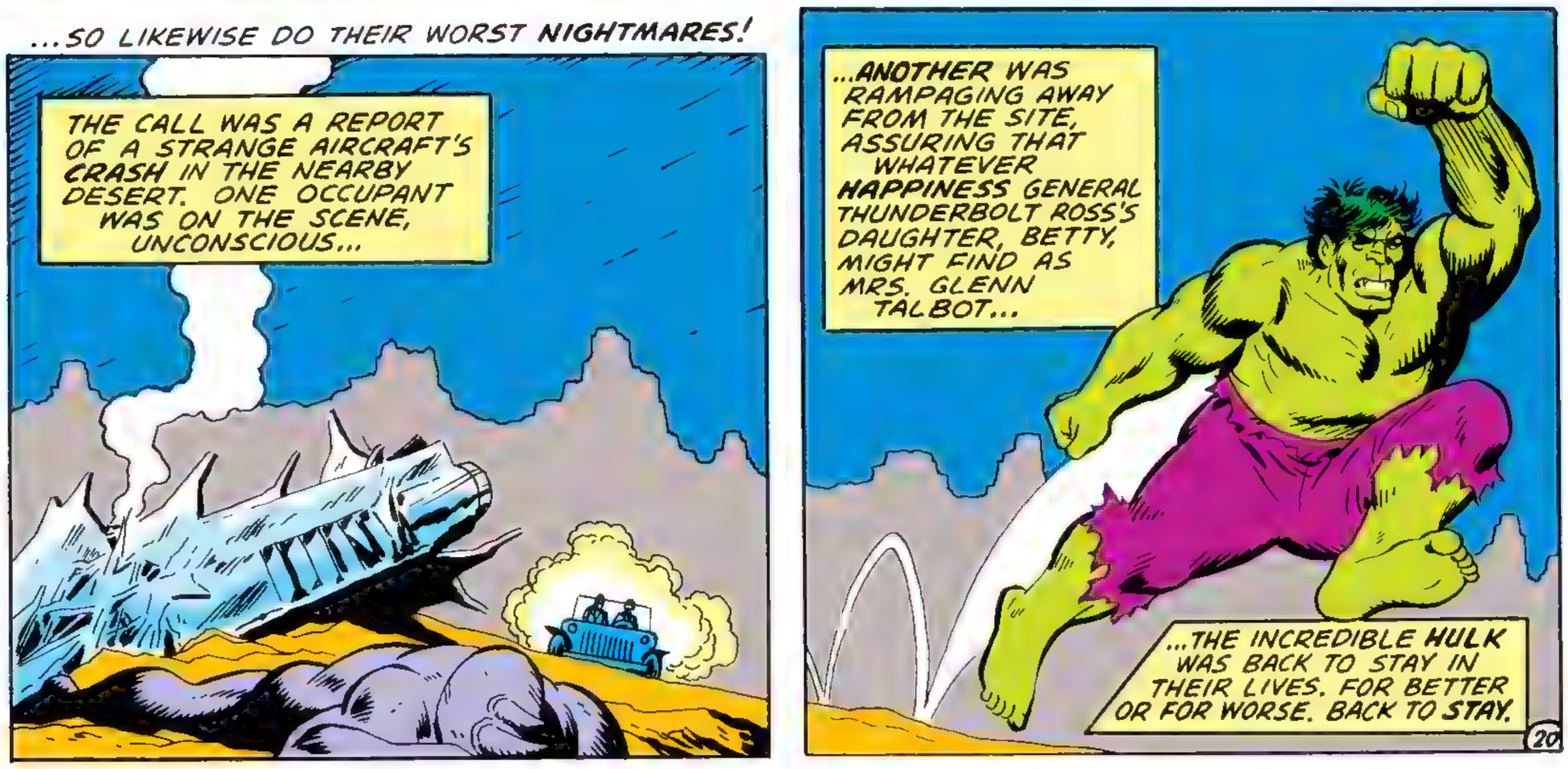
Marvel Super-Heroes #104 (December 1981) Hulk/Dennis the Menace parody
Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Terry Austin

Gosh, Terry, these crazy HULK pin-ups sure are FUN!
Yeah Rog... but what'll we do next?
KATE BUSH FAN
Hey! Why don't you draw the HULK as a lovable lil' kid living next door to good ol' Mr. Ross and his wife?
Sounds great! I bet fearless Editor Al Milgrom will go WILD over this one!
OH NO!!! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IS THERE NO STOPPING THESE MENACES? NOW THEY'VE TURNED POOR OL' GREEN-SKIN INTO...
HULK IS THE HORRENDOUS!
Did somebody here say ROOT BEER?
CO-EDITOR MILGROM SAYS STOP STERN AND AUSTIN BEFORE THEY KILL AGAIN!!

Marvel Super-Heroes #105's (January 1982) reprint of *The Incredible Hulk* #157 replaced the original pair of closing panels with new art to end its continued story.




OH, NO, HULK... OH, MAN!
TOO LATE FOR CRYIN', JIMBO. AIN'T NOTHIN' FOR IT NOW BUT TO GET TO THAT PHONE--
--AN' WARN GENERAL ROSS--
"--HE'S BACK IN THE HULKBUSTIN' BUSINESS!"
USAF
AND SOON, AS DAWN BREAKS IN THE NEW MEXICO SKY...
A SHAKEN MAN PLACES DOWN A RECEIVER, KNOWING THAT, IF THE BEST DREAMS OF MEN SOMETIMES COME TRUE...


...SO LIKEWISE DO THEIR WORST NIGHTMARES!
THE CALL WAS A REPORT OF A STRANGE AIRCRAFT'S CRASH IN THE NEARBY DESERT. ONE OCCUPANT WAS ON THE SCENE, UNCONSCIOUS...
...ANOTHER WAS RAMPAGING AWAY FROM THE SITE, ASSURING THAT WHATEVER HAPPINESS GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS'S DAUGHTER, BETTY, MIGHT FIND AS MRS. GLENN TALBOT...
...THE INCREDIBLE HULK WAS BACK TO STAY IN THEIR LIVES. FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE. BACK TO STAY.
20

FOLLOW THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK IN HIS OWN MAGNIFICENT MONTHLY MARVEL MAGAZINE!

Marvel Super-Heroes #105 (January 1982) Hulk pinup
Writer: Roger Stern | Penciler: Greg LaRocque | Inker: Armando Gil

HIS FIRST NIGHT!
ARTISTS GREG LAROCQUE AND ARMANDO GIL PRESENT THEIR RENDITION OF DR. BANNER'S FIRST FATEFUL TRANSFORMATION INTO COMICDOM'S MOST MIS-UNDERSTOOD GREEN-SKINNED GENTLEMAN.
(AND YES... THAT'S RICK JONES IN THE BACKGROUND... IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING!)

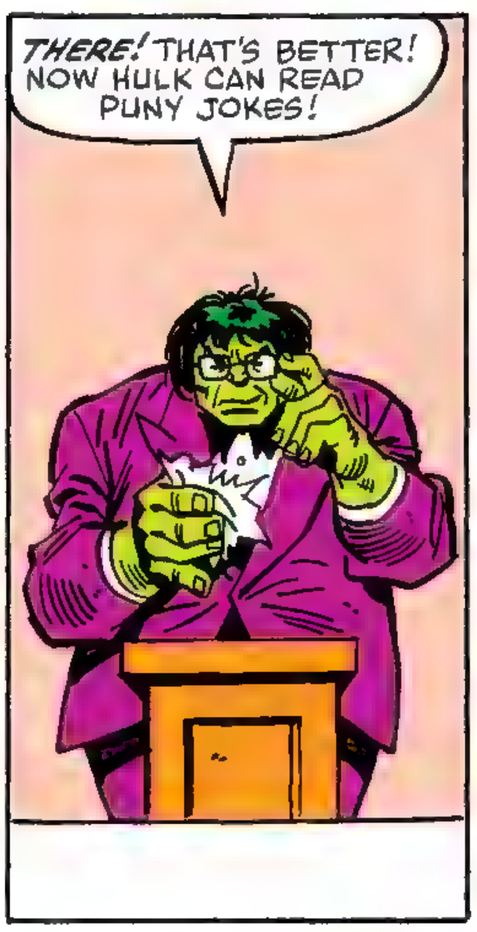
Marvel Super-Heroes #105 (January 1982) Hulk pinup
Writer: Roger Stern | Artist: Herb Trimpe

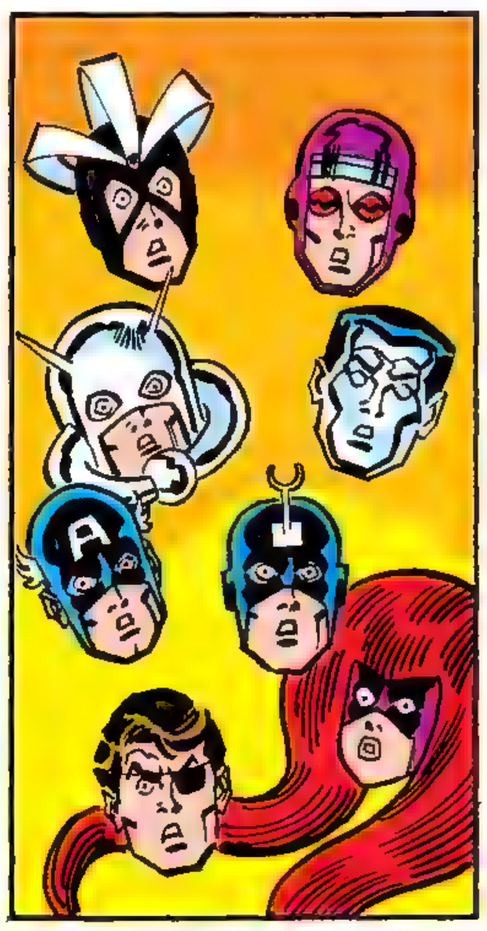
"Know, O Reader, that between the year when the gamma bomb leveled the gleaming tower and the rise of the Sons of Stan, there was an Age Undreamed of...
"Hither came Hulk, the Incredible, green-haired, sullen-eyed, sword in hand, with gigantic melancholies and gigantic girth, to tread the hallowed halls of Marvel in his bare feet."
--The Jrimpean Chronicles.
HULK:
THE BARBARIAN

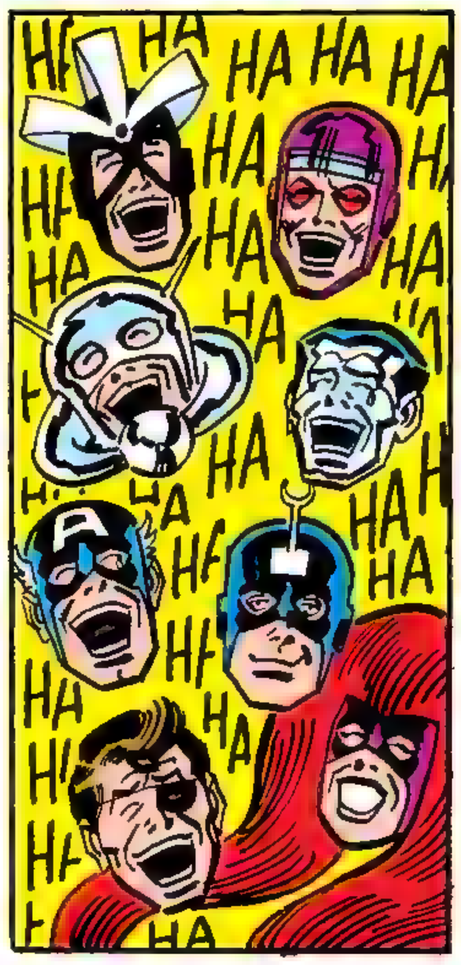
Marvel Super-Heroes #105 closed the series with a surprise and a warning
Writer: Roger Stern | Penciler: Greg LaRocque | Inker: Jim Mooney

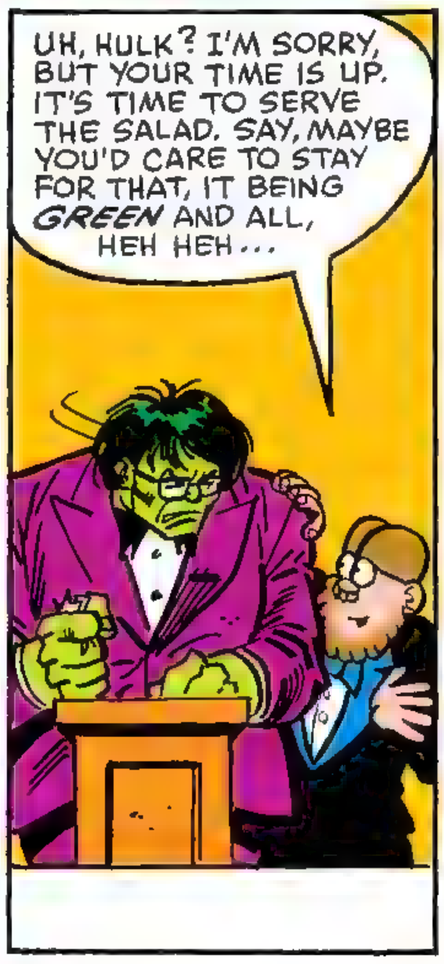
WHAT IS THIS ?!?
MARVEL SUPER HEROES HAS BEEN CANCELLED?! STUPID EDITOR... HOW WILL HULK'S FANS BE ABLE TO READ HULK'S OLD STORIES?
WELL...I GUESS THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO BUY THE OLD COMICS, HULK!
BAH! IT'S A GOOD THING THAT HULK HAS A COMPLETE COLLECTION, OR HULK WOULD SMASH YOU, PUNY EDITOR!
HULK'S READERS BETTER CONTINUE TO BUY HULK'S NEW STORIES, OR HULK WILL SMASH!!
SHOULD THEY CONSIDER THAT A WARNING?
YES!!

In 1982's *Fantastic Four Roast*, writer/cartoonist Fred Hembeck "roasted" Marvel's First Family with the aid of many artists, including this page with Sal Buscema.





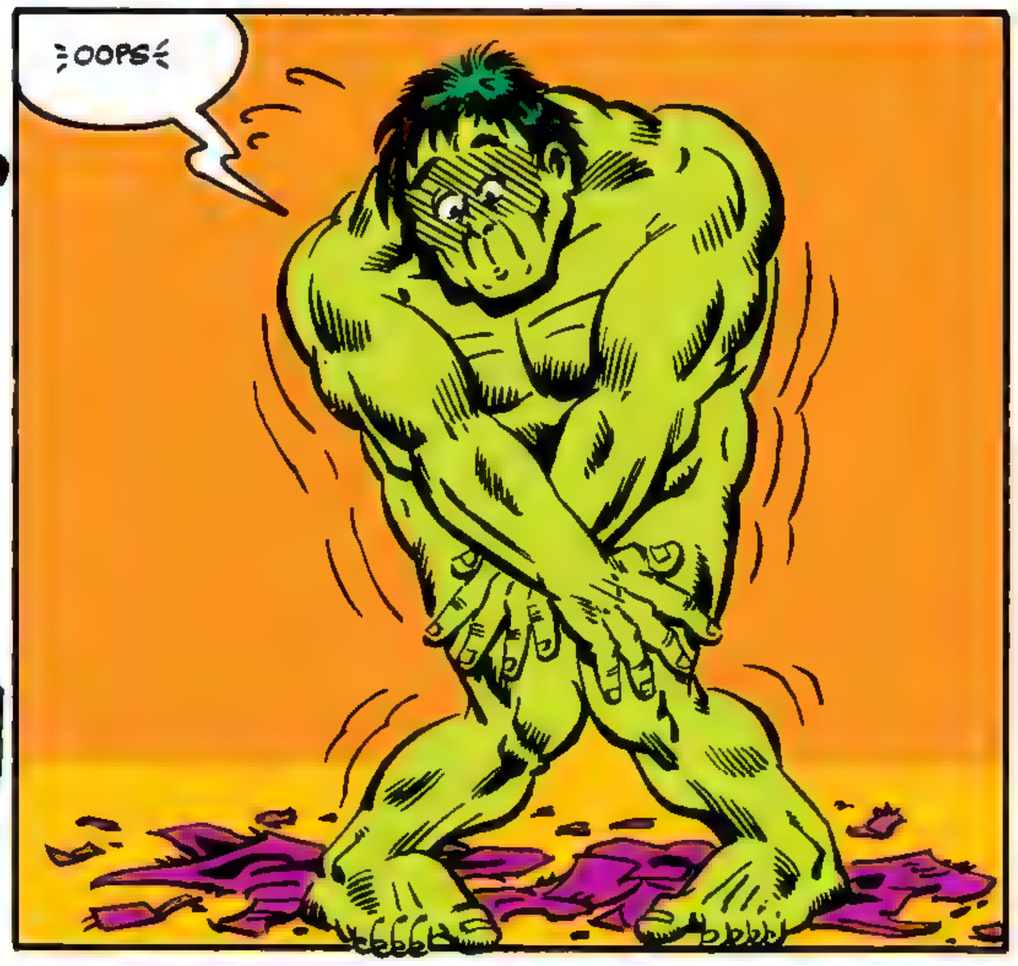



UH, HULK? I'M SORRY, BUT YOUR TIME IS UP. IT'S TIME TO SERVE THE SALAD. SAY, MAYBE YOU'D CARE TO STAY FOR THAT, IT BEING GREEN AND ALL, HEH HEH...

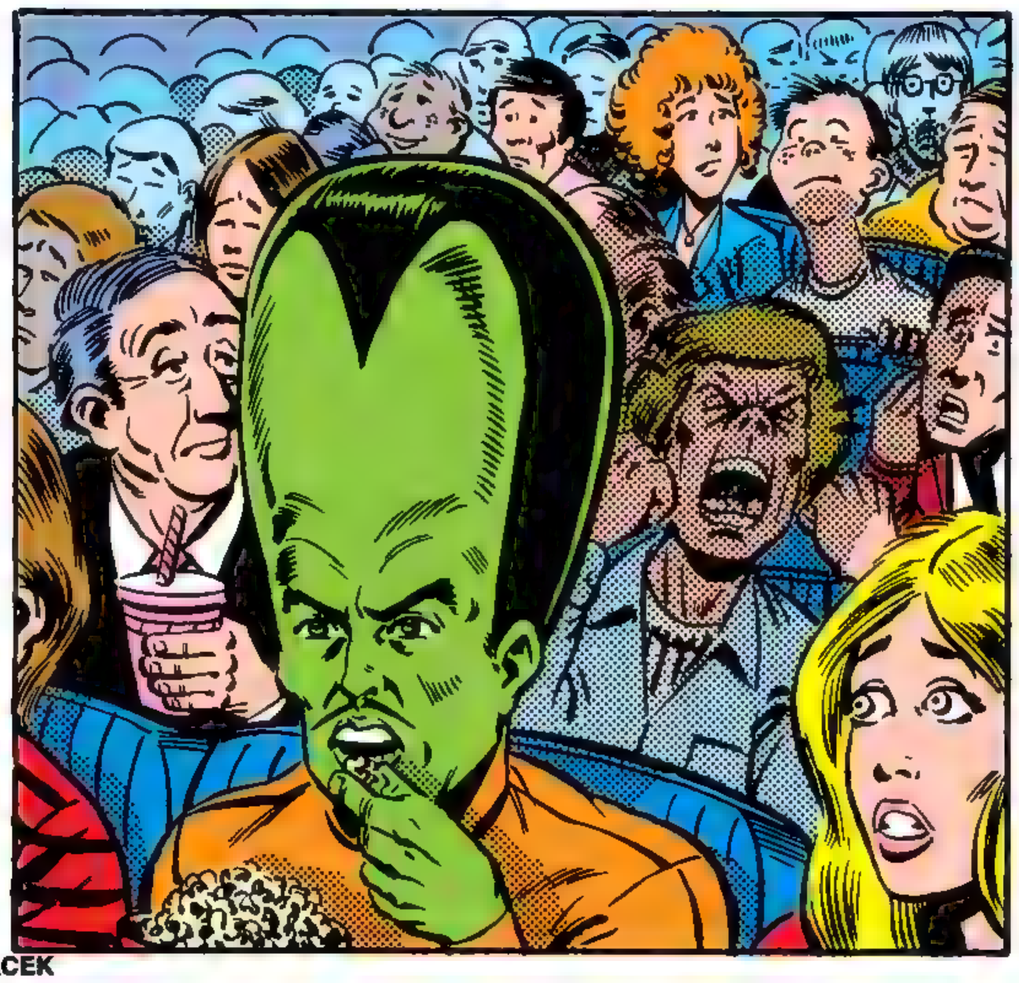
What If? #34 (August 1982), the all-parody issue, took a look at the practical downsides of life in the Marvel Universe.

WHAT IF BLACK BOLT HOSTED A TELEVISION TALK SHOW?

WHAT IF BRUCE BANNER'S PANTS DIDN'T STRETCH WHEN HE BECAME the HULK?



WHAT IF YOU WENT TO THE MOVIES AND HAD TO SIT BEHIND the LEADER?



Writers: **BUDIANSKY/ROMITA Jr./PARKER** Artists: **RON ZALME/BOB WIACEK**

BIOGRAPHIES

BILL MANTLO

From the mid-'70s through the late-'80s, Bill Mantlo established himself as one of the most dedicated writers in the comics industry, writing hundreds of stories across dozens of titles, primarily for Marvel Comics.

Mantlo broke into comics as a colorist, but it wasn't long before he was given a crack at writing a fill-in story, a "Sons of the Tiger" story in the black-and-white *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* magazine, and his true comics talent began to emerge. The quality of his work led to his installation as that book's regular writer, a tenure that included the notable achievement of introducing comics' first Puerto Rican hero, the White Tiger.

After achieving notoriety within the Marvel offices as a guy who could knock out credible fill-in scripts at a moment's notice, Mantlo was given more regular work. One early highlight was his 20-issue tenure on *Iron Man* that began the Golden Avenger's return to prominence. As one might expect from someone with such a volume of work, Mantlo was game to take on projects others dismissed, and he did it with an unfeigned aplomb that elevated the work.

It was on two licensed titles that Mantlo built his legacy. Inspired by a toy given to his son at Christmas, Mantlo lobbied Marvel to adapt Micronauts into an ongoing series. The award-winning epic he spun with artistic luminaries like Michael Golden and Pat Broderick is still highly revered by comics fandom as is his even longer run on *Rom*, wherein he developed a universe filled with Spaceknights, Dire Wraith monsters and outer space intrigue. Other notable credits in Mantlo's career include *Incredible Hulk*, *Alpha Flight* and *Spectacular Spider-Man.*

Just as Mantlo had begun a new career as a public defender with the New York City Legal Aid Society, he was struck by a hit-and-run driver and went into a weeks-long coma from severe head trauma. He has since been under constant medical care. The comics community has led multiple fundraisers to aid in the continuing care of a talented writer who is missed by his many fans.

SAL BUSCEMA

Without a doubt one of comics' most prolific artists, "Our Pal" Sal Buscema joined Marvel in 1968 shortly after his elder brother, John. Tackling inking duties on *Silver Surfer* and *Fantastic Four*, including the all-time classic *Silver Surfer* #4, Buscema quickly graduated to penciling. He was an anchor of the Marvel line in the 1970s with long runs on books like *Captain America*, *Marvel Team-Up* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and a 100-plus issue run on *The Incredible Hulk*. Buscema was also behind defining the tone on early issues of *The Defenders*, *Rom* and *The New Mutants*. His career as one of Marvel's most versatile artists lasted throughout the '70s and into the '90s. In 1988, he returned to *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and over the next ten years penciled every issue but two from #134 through #238 (and inked the vast majority as well!) Although he retired in the late '90s, Buscema has continued to lend his talents to projects from time to time, most notably the cult hit *Spider-Girl*.

JOE BARNEY

Joe Barney began his professional career in art in 1975 at 19 years old, accepting an invitation from Neal Adams to work with his Continuity Associates as an assistant. He learned many facets of commercial and comic art, working with the teams of Continuity artists who produced content for various comics publishers including Marvel, DC and Charlton. His credited work at Marvel included pencils on a Hulk story in *Marvel Fanfare*, the adaptation of the feature film of Arthur C. Clarke's *2010* and an issue of *What If?* featuring the Silver Surfer.

STEVEN GRANT

A self-described "accidental" comic book writer, Steven Grant dabbled in comics writing in the early '70s for indie imprints before getting work as a music and film critic for newspapers in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin. He kept in touch with his comics-loving associates in the CPL Gang, who urged him to go further in the comics industry. A 1976 meeting with Marvel editor Marv Wolfman didn't yield any opportunities, but while visiting CPL pal Roger Stern in 1979 opportunity struck. Stern, an editor newly ensconced at Marvel, offered Grant a gig writing an issue of *Marvel Two-In-One* that was running late. After turning in his script for the Thing/Moon Knight team-up, more work came his way as he helped Stern get his titles back on schedule. His first regular gigs were Spider-Man's adventures in *Marvel Team-Up* and the young readers book *Spidey Super Stories*. Grant also wrote issues of *Spider-Woman*, *Incredible Hulk*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and he co-wrote the *Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions* limited series. One of his biggest projects was scribing the *Life of Pope John Paul II* one-shot in 1983. That same year he launched his own character, Whisper, for Capital Comics and then First Comics, and was handed the reins to *American Flagg!* by its creator Howard Chaykin. In 1986, Grant made a huge splash with artist Mike Zeck on their *Punisher* miniseries. The fan-favorite series ignited the Punisher's popularity, raising him to the ranks of one of Marvel's most popular characters. Grant followed up with the acclaimed *Punisher: Return to Big Nothing* graphic novel and turns on *Punisher War Journal*, *Punisher War Zone* and the ongoing *Punisher* series. He branched out to DC in the '90s, rebooting *Challengers of the Unknown* and *Manhunter*. Grant's series *2 Guns*, published by BOOM! Studios, was adapted into a 2013 film starring Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg.

MARK GRUENWALD

Few can lay claim to the influence that Mark Gruenwald had on Marvel as an editor, writer and artist during the 1980s and '90s. Born in 1953 in Wisconsin, Gruenwald's love of comics manifested in a fanzine titled *Omniverse*, which led to writing articles for the DC-published fanzine *Amazing World of DC Comics*. In 1978, he was hired by Jim Shooter to serve as an assistant editor at Marvel. In addition, Gruenwald also scripted several titles. He was ongoing writer of *Spider-Woman* in 1978-79, he kicked off a long run co-scripting *Marvel Two-In-One* with the "Project Pegasus" arc, and he co-wrote a handful of stories in *What If?* and *Thor*. Early in his career, Gruenwald also penciled a number of titles, including issues of *Questprobe*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Marvel Team-Up*. His major art credit was drawing the 1983 *Hawkeye* miniseries, which he also scripted.

A well-known continuity hound and office jokester, Gruenwald gave T-shirts emblazoned with the catchphrase "Continuity or Bust" to his office peers. His deep love of the Marvel mythos didn't stop with T-shirts. As a writer, he delved deep into Marvel's past with his "Untold Tales of the Marvel Universe" backup stories in *What If?*, as well as the secret origin of the High Evolutionary in the 1989 "Evolutionary War" event. Gruenwald's biggest achievement in grappling with the encyclopedic history of Marvel was his development of *The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe*, a series compiling the backgrounds of virtually every Marvel character. Eager fans devoured *OHOTMU*, and the series' success led to multiple sequels and updates that continue today.

Gruenwald's biggest accomplishment as a writer came with *Captain America*, a title which he wrote for an astonishing 137-issue run from 1985-1995. He also kicked off long runs on *Quasar* and the New Universe title *D.P. 7*. His critically acclaimed magnum opus, *Squadron Supreme*, a 12-issue miniseries, reestablished the alternate-reality Marvel team. When Tom DeFalco was named editor-in-chief in 1988, Gruenwald became his second-in-command with the title of executive editor. As an editor, he worked closely to mentor young writers, bringing an unforgettable sense of fun to the deadline slog. Tragically, Gruenwald passed away in 1996 due to an unknown heart ailment. In his will, he requested his ashes be mixed with ink used in the first printing of the *Squadron Supreme* trade paperback.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY PRESENTS THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC BOOKS, PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED FROM THE HIGHEST-QUALITY SOURCES AND WITH THE MOST DILIGENT ARCHIVAL METHODS.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee.

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-26
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-3
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-23
THE BLACK PANTHER VOLS. 1-3
BROTHER VOODOO VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-16
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-6
THE CHAMPIONS VOL. 1
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-18
DAZZLER VOLS. 1-4
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-8
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-10
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-25
GHOST RIDER VOLS. 1-5
HOWARD THE DUCK VOLS. 1-2
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-18
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-17
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOLS. 1-3
KILLRAVEN VOL. 1
LUKE CAGE VOLS. 1-3
MARVEL RARITIES VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-7
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOLS. 1-7
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-22
MS. MARVEL VOLS. 1-2
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
NOT BRAND ECHH VOL. 1
OMEGA THE UNKNOWN VOL. 1
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-6
SPIDER-WOMAN VOLS. 1-4
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-8
THE TOMB OF DRACULA VOLS. 1-3
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-16

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
50¢ 266 DEC 02456
BEGINNING SEPT. 12th ON NBC
SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS!
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
I'VE MADE MONKEYS OUT OF YOUR FRIENDS, HULK--
--YOU'RE NEXT!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
60¢ 267 JAN 02456
WIN A Columbia TEN-SPEED FORMULA 10 RACER!
DETAILS INSIDE
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
WRONG END OF THE RAINBOW

60¢ 269 MAR 02456
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
THE HULK HUNTERS!

60¢ 271 MAY 02456
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
WHAT? HULK HAS TO SHARE HIS 20th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE WITH PUNY TALKING ANIMAL?
YOU GOT IT, JADE JAWS! MOVE OVER AND MAKE WAY FOR...
ROCKET RACCOON!

60¢ 272 JUNE 02456
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE HULK

60¢ 275 SEPT 02456
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
THE MENACE OF MEGALITH!

60¢ 276 OCT 02456
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
RETURN OF THE U-FOES!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
60¢ 278 DEC 02456
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
JOINS SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS ON NBC SATURDAY, SEPT. 11th
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
GIVE ME AMNESTY... OR GIVE ME DEATH!

60¢ 279 JAN 02456
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
SO THIS IS WHAT ACCEPTANCE FEELS LIKE!